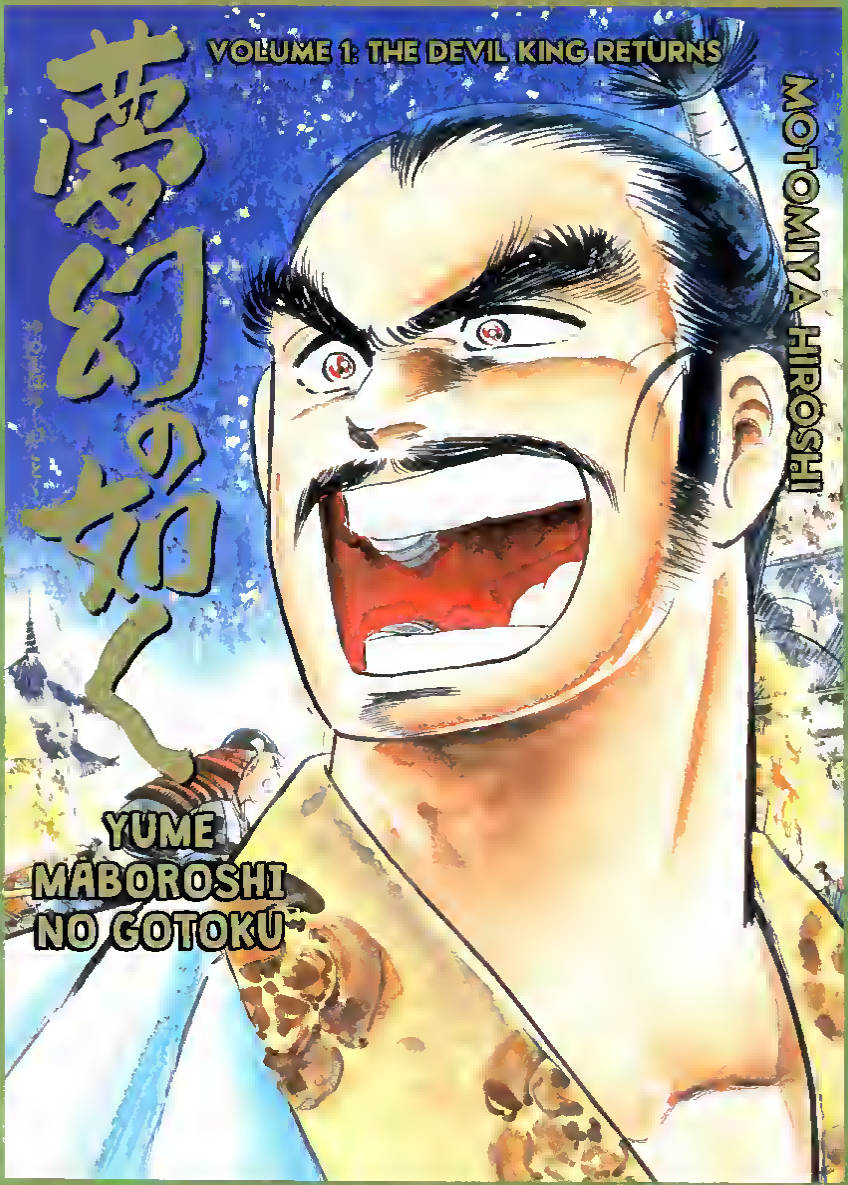
夢幻の如く
VOLUME 1: THE DEVIL KING RETURNS
MOTOMIYA HIROSHI
YUME
MABOROSHI
NO GOTOKU

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU
VOLUME 1
THE DEVIL KING RETURNS

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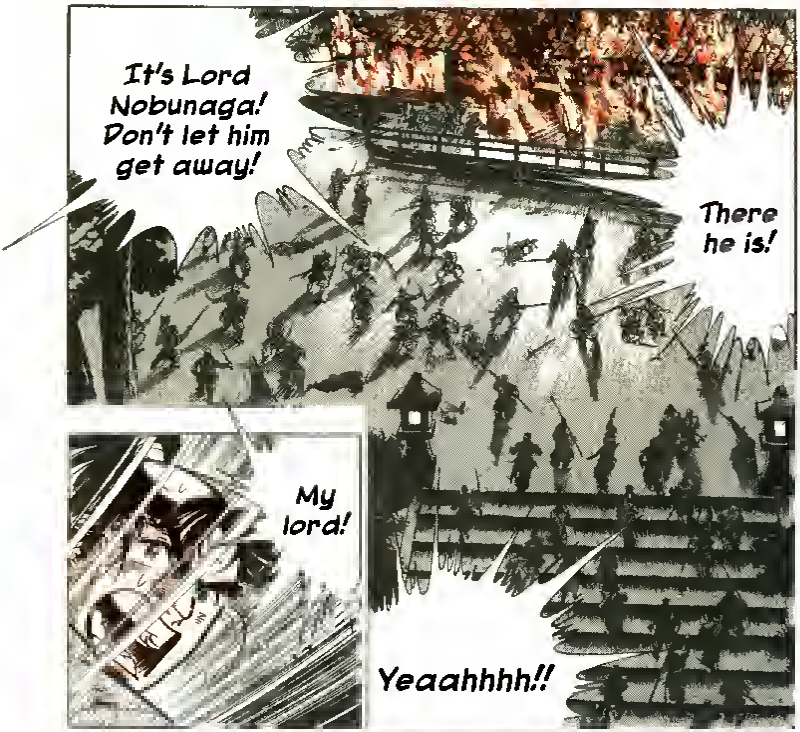
WITH WISDOM AND BRAVERY THAT SURPASSED THE MONGOLIAN KING GENGHIS KHAN...
July 2nd, Tensho year 10 Honno Temple, Shijo, Kyoto
IN THE FAR EAST OF THE WORLD, THERE WAS A GREAT KING OF ZIPANGU...
AFTER HE HAD UNITED THE NATION, HE WAS SURE TO SEND HIS VALOROUS SOLDIERS OUT TO THE WORLD.

Chapter 1: The Incident of Honno Temple

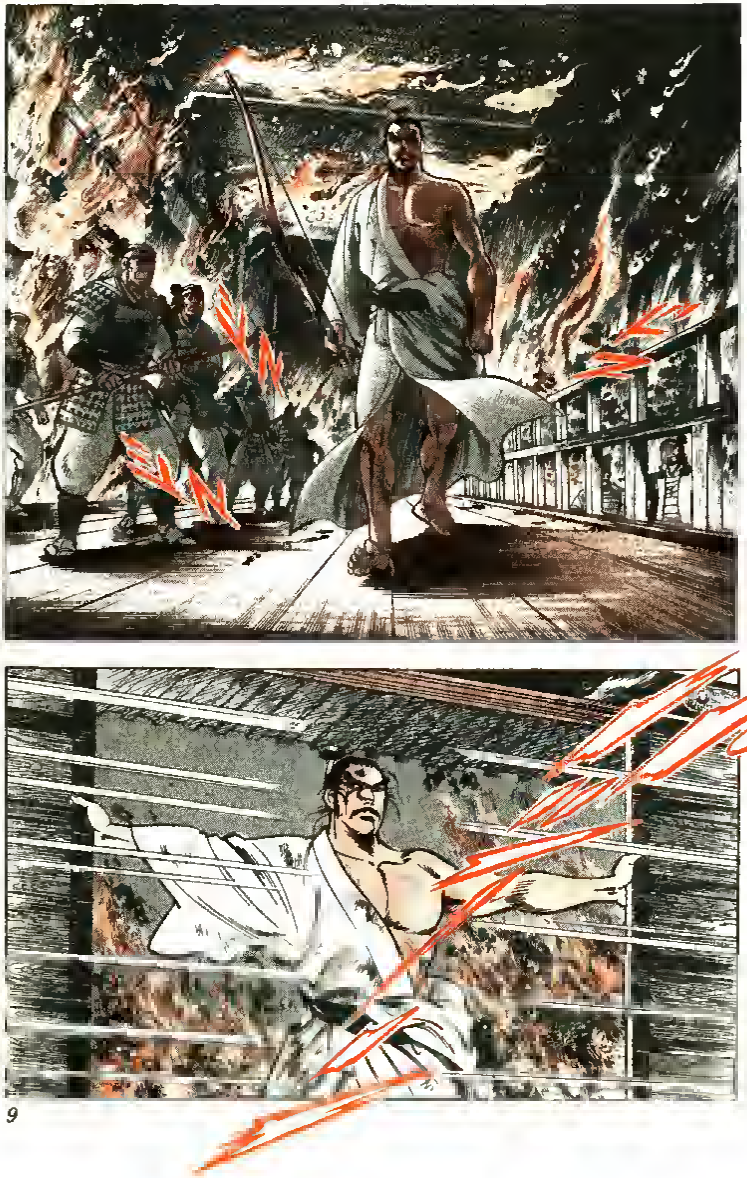
Chapter 1: The Incident of Honno Temple

Go further into the temple!!
My lord! Go inside!


It's Lord Nobunaga! Don't let him get away!
There he is!
My lord!
Yeaahhhh!!

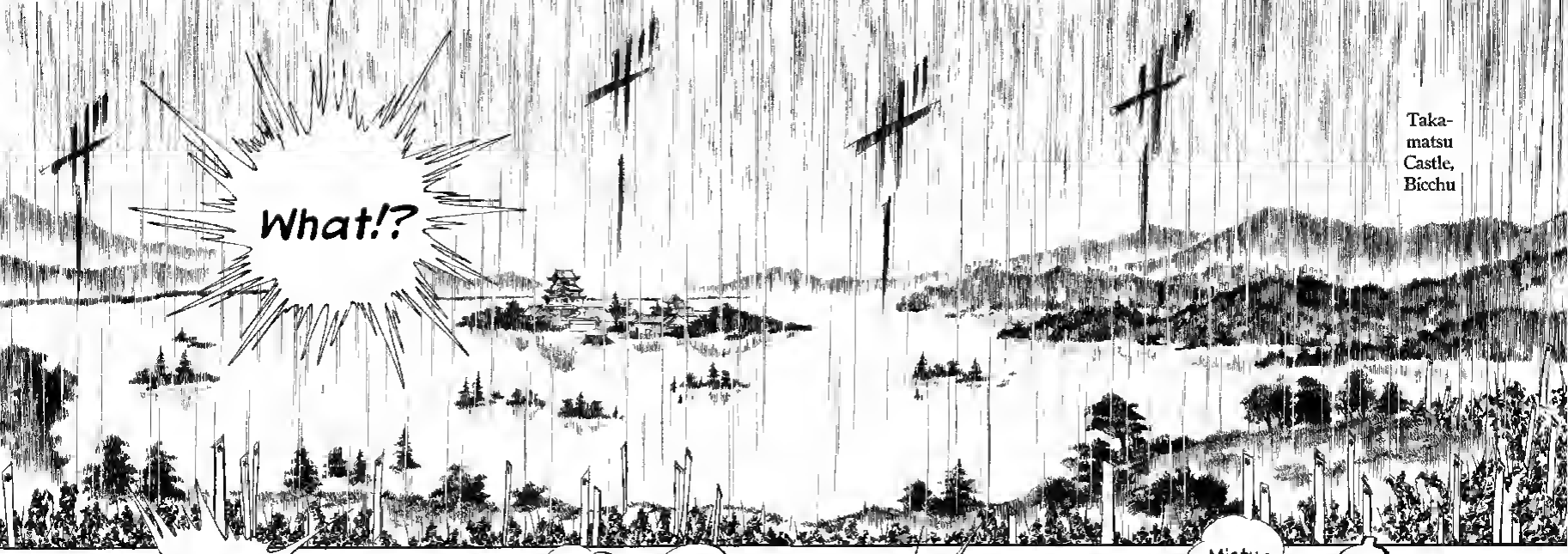
Stand down.

I said stand down, you rotten bastards!
Ah...
Huh...?



Is it my fate to perish here...?
Yes, my lord?
Hey, Ranmaru...
Yes... Just about anyone would expect me to perish.
At this point, I think...
A...

Then perish I shall! Bahahaha!
Is that not amusing?
ON MY OWN ACCORD, I HAVE BEEN PLOTTING A SCHEME TO DEPOSE THIS KING
-CABRAL
Waaah hahaha haaaah!
Haaah hahaha haha!


What!?
Taka-
matsu
Castle,
Bicchu

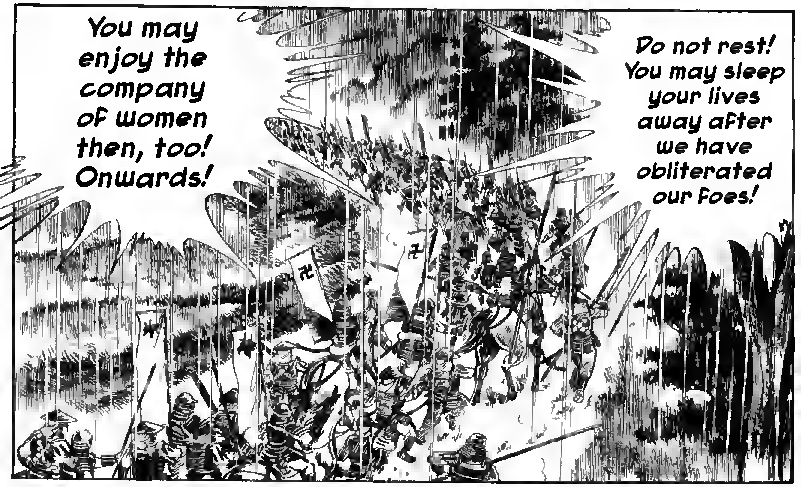
What am I supposed to do, Kanbei?
This is awful!
How could this be?

That damn fool actually went and did it!
That...
T...
Mistu-
hide...
HASHIBA CHIKUZEN-NO-KAMI
HIDEYOSHI

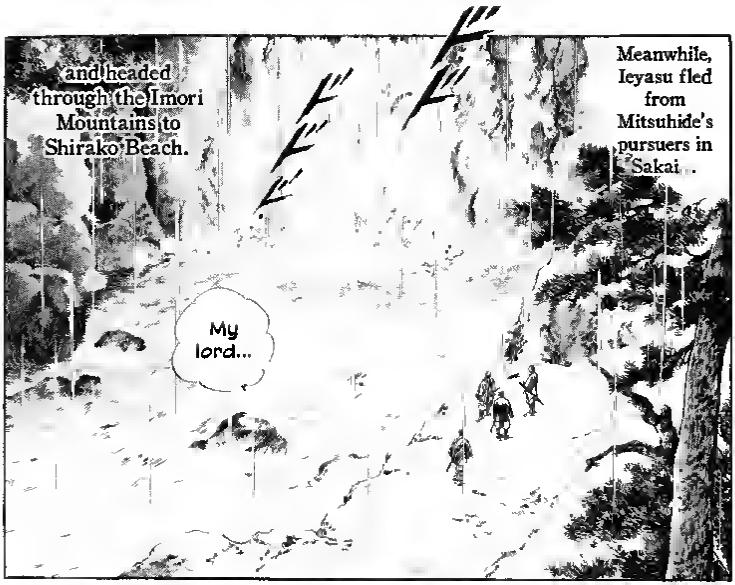
Even our lord must have been well aware of this.
Why are you so flustered? We already knew that Mitsuhide had contacted him.
KURODA KANBEI YOSHITAKA
I was only busting his chops!
Don't be absurd! I never thought Mitsuhide would actually go and do it!
In that case...
Our lord is dead...
And now he's dead...
HACHISUKA KOROKU MASAKATSU

Whaaa aaat!?
Should we not make haste to slay Akechi Mitsuhide?
W...
If you were to slay Mitsuhide... Then you would obtain the greatest honor in the land.
Mitsuhide can still be branded a traitor.

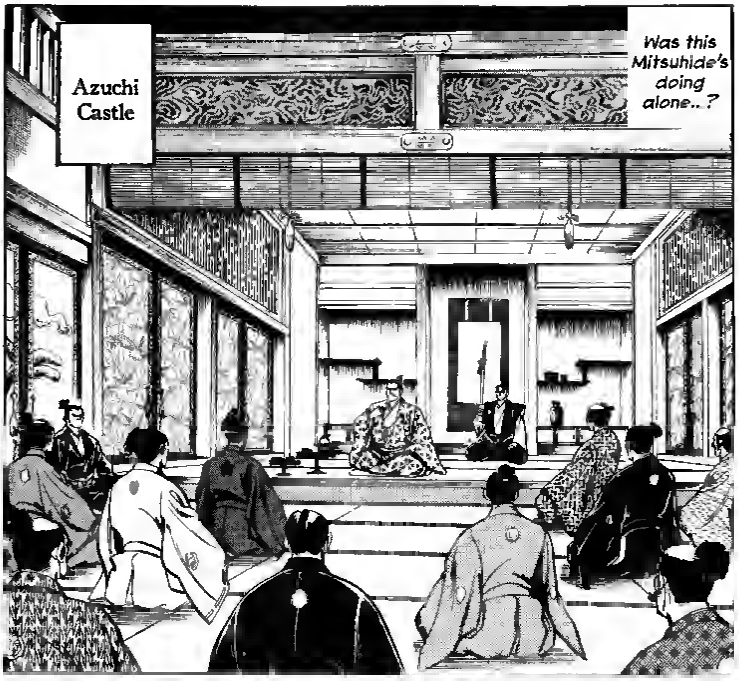
It's a more fruitful war than any we've ever fought!
This war takes precedence over all else!
Onwards!


You may enjoy the company of women then, too! Onwards!
Do not rest! You may sleep your lives away after we have obliterated our foes!

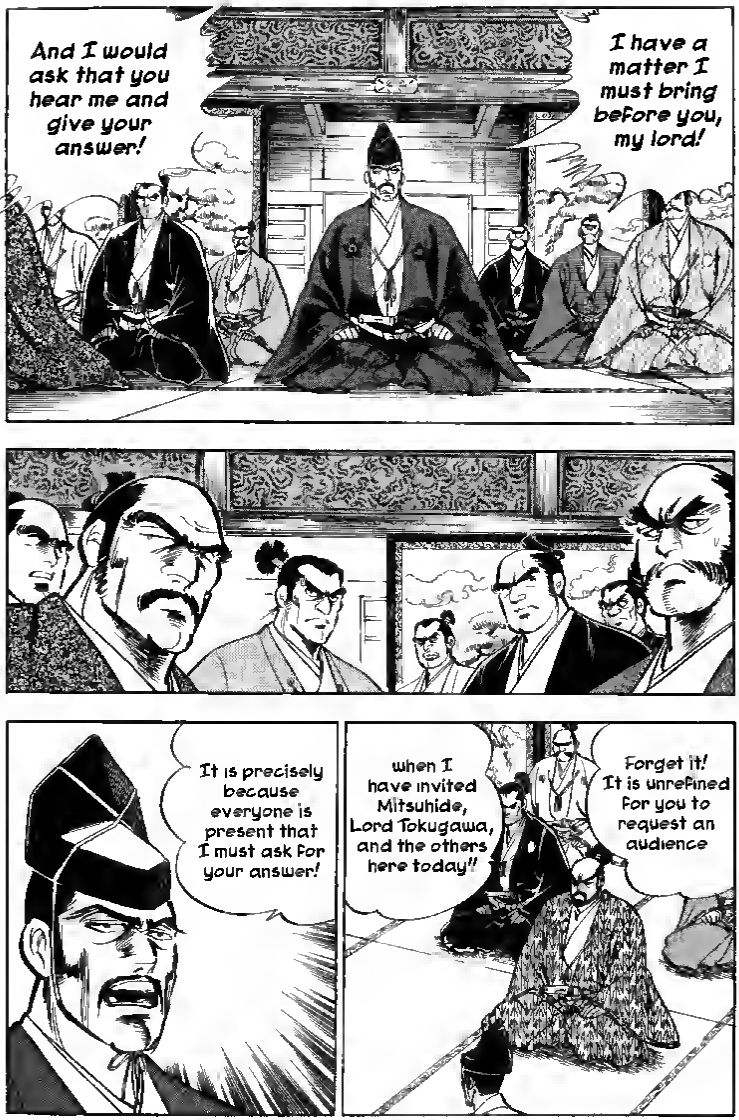
If we win this war, you will receive anything your heart desires!
Run, run, as fast as you can go!


Meanwhile, Ieyasu fled from Mitsuhide's pursuers in Sakai...
and headed through the Imori Mountains to Shirako Beach.
My lord...

We ought to be safe here. Let us rest awhile.
Mitsuhide...
Y-Yes...


Azuchi Castle
Was this Mitsuhide's doing alone..?

わぁあっはっは…


I have a matter I must bring before you, my lord!
And I would ask that you hear me and give your answer!
Forget it! It is unrefined for you to request an audience
when I have invited Mitsuhide, Lord Tokugawa, and the others here today!"
It is precisely because everyone is present that I must ask for your answer!

What are your plans for the Imperial Court, or rather, the Emperor of Kyoto...?
My lord, once your military conquest is complete,
Alright, baldy...
I suppose I will listen to Hyuga's sermons for once. I'll allow it!!
Or should I depose the Court and become king of the realm...?
Should I burn it to the ground as I did Mt. Hiei...?

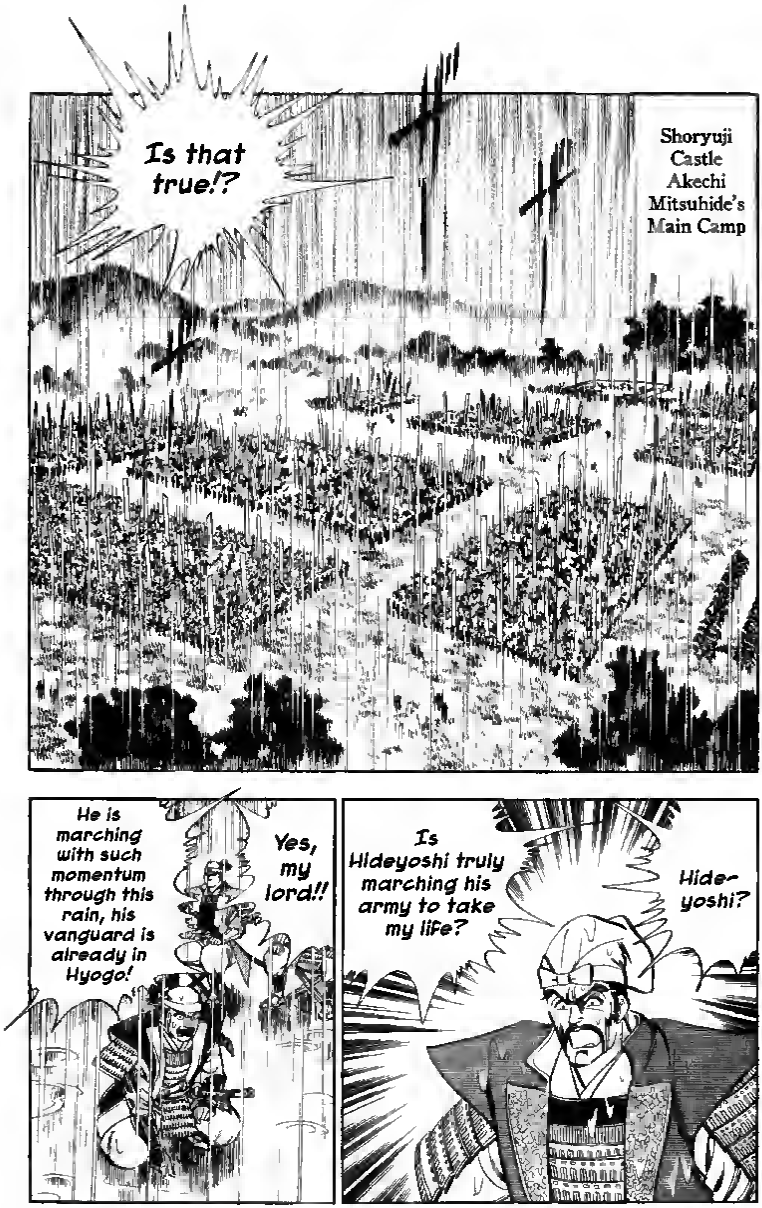
That must never be allowed to come to pass!
What say you, Hyuga...?
in front of this audience!
I ask that you give your word...

Begone!!
I'm getting nauseous at the mere sight of you you!!
Enough of your stupid drivel!

If Mitsuhide and Hideyoshi shared the same plot...
They could do it...
But if the Padre, the Court, and even Chikuzen...
Mitsuhide could not have done this alone...

Yes.
My lord, it's time we...
They could gather those Oda left behind and conquer the nation...
Hmm!
Hashiba Chikuzen-no-Kami-...
Reporting in!
What is it?
Hanzo...

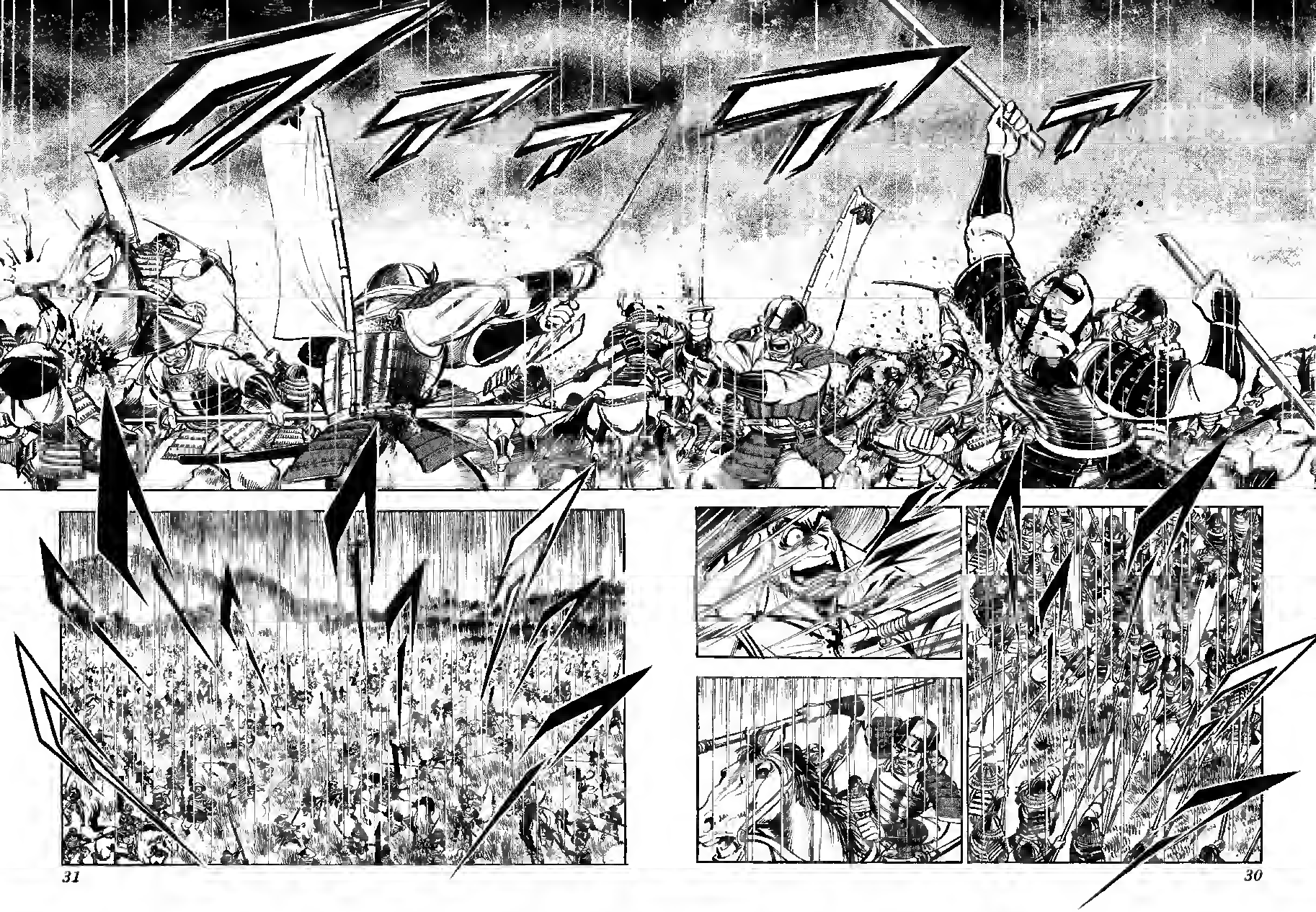
Damn it all!!
and is currently leading his army on a sleepless march along the Sanyodo to defeat Akechi Mitsuhide!
has left Takamatsu Castle immediately upon his reconciliation with the Mori,
What!?
played me like a fool!!
Chizuken...
Ch...


Is that true!?
Shoryuji Castle
Akechi Mitsuhide's Main Camp
He is marching with such momentum through this rain, his vanguard is already in Hyogo!
Yes, my lord!!
Is Hideyoshi truly marching his army to take my life?
Hide-yoshi?

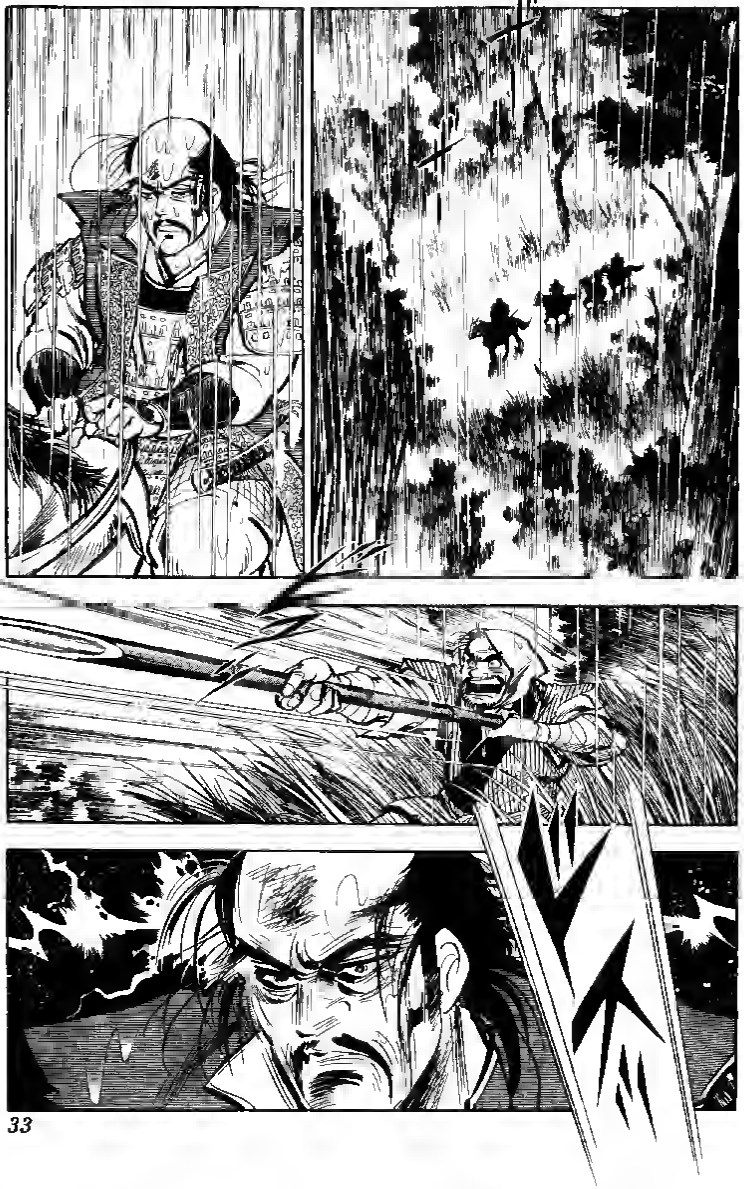
Father Cabral!!
We were to combine with the Hashiba army and secure the whole of Kinki...
Were you lying when you told me that Hashiba Chikuzen had assented to our noble deed?
That is indeed true...
so I, Mitsuhide, would reign over the nation...
then receive a Commendation* for slaying Nobunaga, the man that slighted the Court,

*Commendation = General term for a letter expressing the Emperor's goodwill.

He has been blinded by avarice!
Damned Chikuzen!
He told me that he would follow you, for to defend the Court is to defend the history of Japan...
Lord Chikuzen made a clear promise to me...
Where are Takayama, Nakagawa, and Ikeda's reinforcements?
What about Tsutsui of Yamato?
I believe we have no choice but to settle the score with Hashiba's army...
After such an oversight as this, I doubt Lord Tsutsui would wish to side with us any longer.



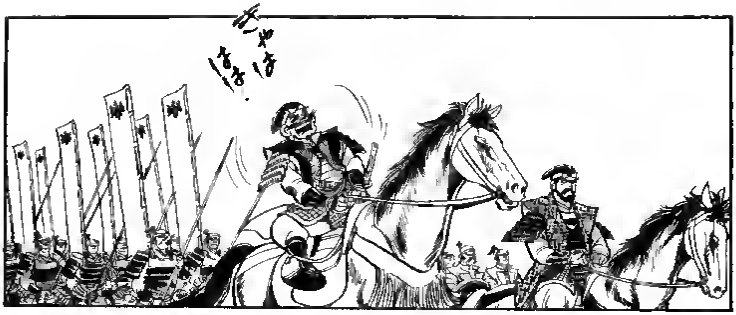
What shall we do, Father Cabral? Akechi's army appears to be at a disadvantage.
I care not...
I care not whether Akechi or Hashiba Hideyoshi rules this nation.
As long as the king of this nation is no devil...

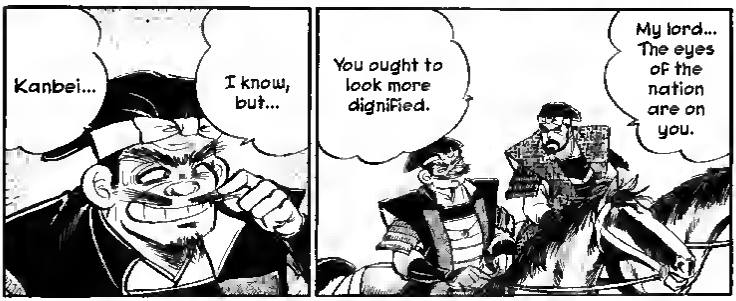


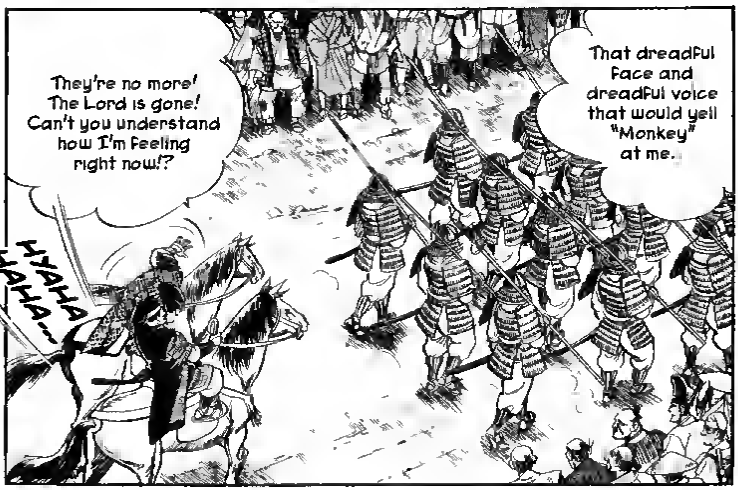
Gehh hhhh!
Nuaa aaaa auuu ggg hhh!

My lord!
My lord!
H-Had I not done it...
My lord!!
Leave me... I am satisfied...
This nation would have been torn in twain by the Devil King..

Himeji Castle
(Hashiba Chikuzen-
no-Kami's castle)
Way to go! You rule, Lord Hashiba!
You're the best man in Japan!
The nation is yours now!




Kanbei...
I know, but...
You ought to look more dignified.
My lord... The eyes of the nation are on you.


They're no more! The Lord is gone! Can't you understand how I'm feeling right now!?
That dreadful face and dreadful voice that would yell "Monkey" at me.
HYAHA HAHA...

This vast sky is allllllll mine!
Ohhhh, how vast it is...
KYAAAH HAHA...
KYAH! KYAH!
Ahhh...
WHINNY!
Monkey!!

Who the Fuck just said that!?
God-damn it!
Where did that come from?
What the hell?
Whoever said that, step forward!
What did you just say!?

You'll be beheaded!
You've just said the one word our lord detests!
ズズ…
Take off that scarf, you peasant bastard!
THUD!
You...

GWAAH HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA!
never stopped falling off of horses, have you, Monkey?
HGYAA AAAAAAA HHHHHHH HHHHHH HHHH!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 1

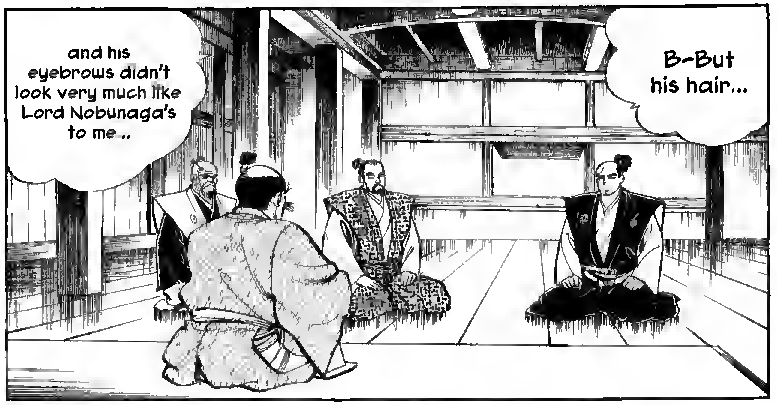
Chapter 2: The Devil King Returns

Insolent fool! I'll cut you down!
Halt! Do not harm him!!
Walk him off to the castle!

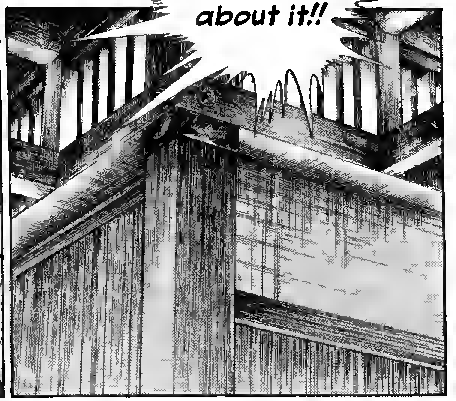
Yes, my lord!
Well, Kanbei!

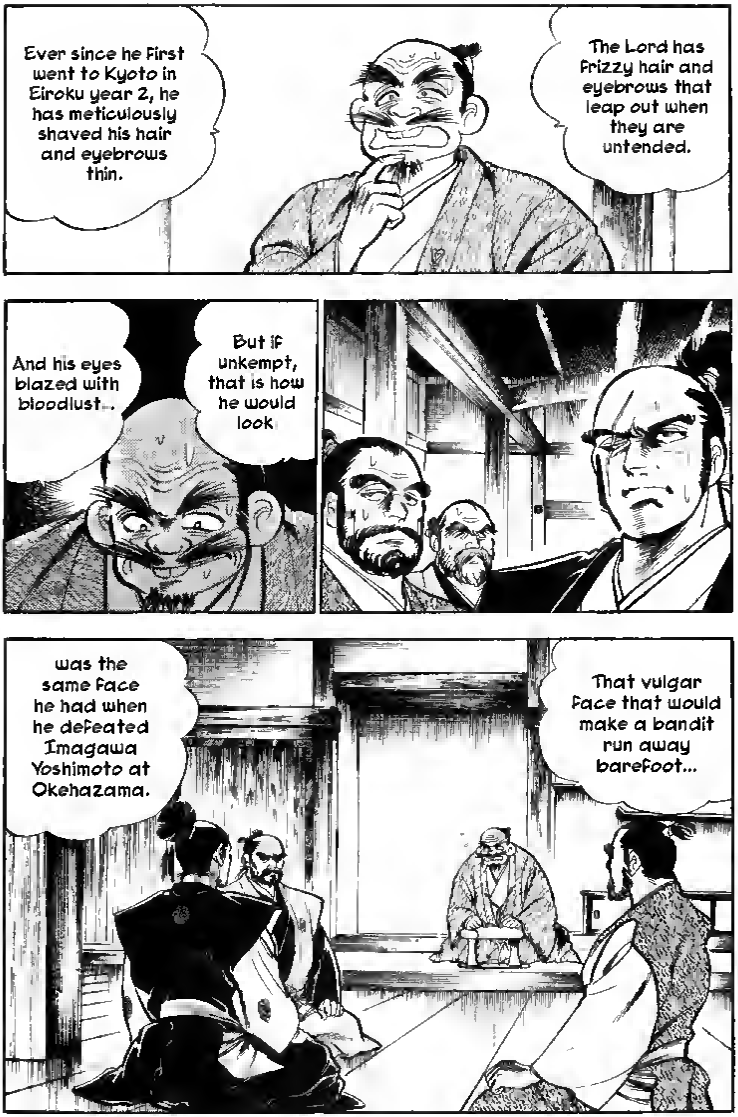
You've got a lot of balls...
pretending you don't know who I am!
.....
.....
You have a splendid tactician there, Monkey!!
You better take care of him!
Wahha hahaha haha!

Lord Chikuzen...
The conse-quences are going to be dire...
You had best...
send for him soon...


and his eyebrows didn't look very much like Lord Nobunaga's to me..
B-But his hair...

the Great Lord Oda...
That was undeniably...


No doubt about it!!


Ever since he first went to Kyoto in Eiroku year 2, he has meticulously shaved his hair and eyebrows thin.
The Lord has frizzy hair and eyebrows that leap out when they are untended.
And his eyes blazed with bloodlust...
But if unkempt, that is how he would look.
That vulgar face that would make a bandit run away barefoot...
was the same face he had when he defeated Imagawa Yoshimoto at Okehazama.

Then what do you hope to do?
If that was the real Lord Nobu-naga...
who followed the Lord was undoubtedly Mori Ranmaru.
And the man aiming a match-lock at me.
We will summon him to this castle at once, and declare to the world that he is safe and sound!
That ought to be obvious!

Cabral...
then the nation that has fallen into your hands...
Should you do that,
will be out of your reach forever...
You managed to catch Mitsuhide by telling him the Court was in crisis..
Still... For a foreigner... you really know how to hook us!

determines the prosperity of the people subject to him.
Whether the ruler of a nation is good or evil,
And now you hook me with the nation?
If the Lord is alive, you'll be the first to be beheaded!
Oh, shut up! Isn't your god Deus supposed to be responsible for human happiness?
Indeed.
You say we kill him?
It is utterly reprehensible of him to use the Lord's name to sow dissent among the hearts of men...
That man was not Lord Nobunaga.

If you wanted to kill him, you could've killed him back there! But one shout from his booming voice left you frozen and shaking in fear!
Could you kill him!? Could you really, Kanbei...?
Well?
Well?
Now explain to me how you intend to kill him!!
Whether or not that man is Lord Nobunaga,
But either way...

We ought to act after we have confirmed it with our own eyes...
We are not yet certain one way or another.
I have already sent my men to do the same.
So we capture him...?
But...
Well, I'll be...

I'm hungry, Ranmaru...
Yes, my lord...
My apologies. I... Just bear with it a while longer.

You can't just shoot a passerby...
M-My lord...
You meron—
Load your matchlock

But I don't think crow would taste that good.
Oh, I see! He's going to shoot down a crow and eat it.

Aiiiee eeee!
What's going on!?
W-
Does anyone here want this matchlock!?
How'd you like that? This is the latest-model matchlock!

But if you lose, you'll better leave some money behind!
Well? Any takers!?
I'll give this matchlock to anyone who can wrestle me to the ground!
Daahhaha hahaha!!

I hope you mean that...
There.
I never tell a lie. Now leave your money first.
Cause I'll rip your head off if you're lying.
What's going on here?
Wrestling, they say! This should be entertaining!!

Here, I'll give you a name! How does "potato field" sound!?
Your opponent may be skinny, but he looks speedy!
GYAHHAHA!
Hey, watch out there, big guy!
WAAHHHHA!
Go get 'em, Matchlock!
And we'll call this one Matchlock!
This is the very man that burned down Mt. Hiei!!
Damn, the insolence of these people...

Dammit! Don't act like my wife
when she mounts me and passes gas!!
Wait...
One moment...
WAAAAHHH!
Why don't you place your bets on who's gonna win...?
Don't you find it a little boring if you're just watching there?

What'll you pay us if we win?
Place our bets? But you don't have anything but that matchlock!
HAHHAHA!
OHHH!
This man was the page in the great Oda Nobunaga's service...
How about this?
My lord!
If I lose, you get to sodomize his ass! How does that sound?

I'm in! I'm in!
Alright! Me too!
Sounds fun! I'm in!
GO!!
GO!!
GO!!
GO!!

I hate to tell you, but it's gonna be mine!!
A single matchlock is worth a whole horse nowadays!!
The matchlock is an art of human wisdom...
But wrestling...

is an art of the human body!!
Ranmaru! I just saved your ass!
GWAAAAH HAHAHA!

I, Hachisuka Koroku Masakatsu...
have arrived to summon you...
Ah.
Very well. I've had enough of sleeping in hay...
and eating nothing but rice balls... Now show me the way!
Yes, my lord.

Yamazaki Castle
No doubt about it...?
N...
.....
That was truly the real Lord Oda Nobunaga.
None whatsoever.

and I saw the scar on his back of the sword wound he suffered in the Battle of Anekawa with my own eyes.
He is enjoying a bath at the moment,
Not a thing.
Did he say anything about me...?
Did he...

My lord...
Yes?
They showed us into the castle through the rear gate, so no one would see us. .
And no one has come for us since we entered the castle.

You fool...
Is Lord Hideyoshi...
What exactly are you planning to do here...?
Then why come to this castle...?
He obviously intends to kill me...
So if you know that...
Here, eat up! These pickles are quite good...
That monkey is pretty damn good for a low-born!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

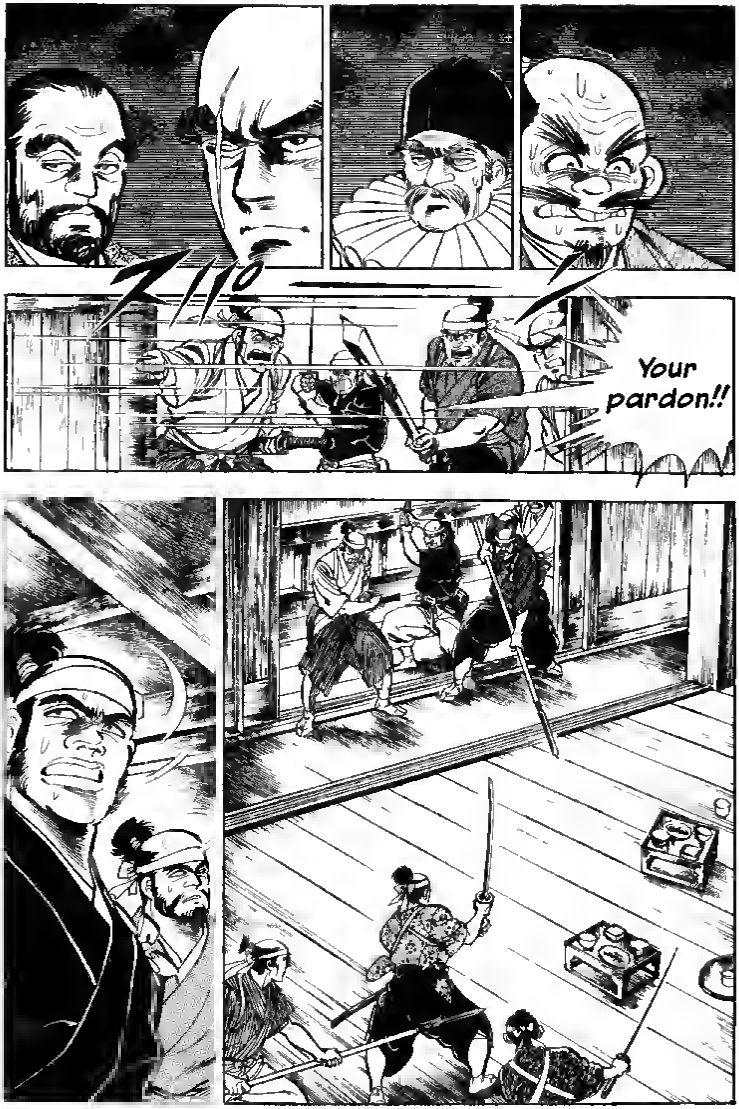
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 2

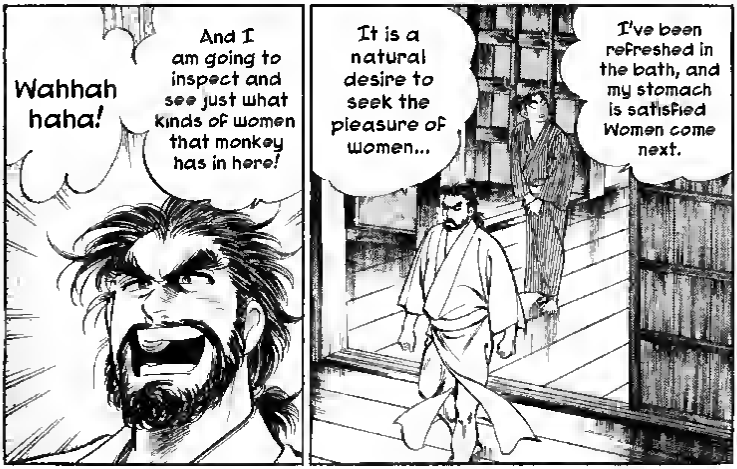
Chapter 3:
The Devil King's Dream

least of all the Oda clan generals such as Shibata Katsuie and Niwa Nagahide.
We must use any means necessary to ensure that no one know of the Lord' survival,
We are agreed?
Then...
I know...
Kill him right now!!
Damn it all!
Kill him!
But that man is not Lord Nobunaga...
Nothing has ever made me feel greater than being complimented by Lord Nobunaga

Chapter 3: The Devil King's Dream


Your pardon!!

Uh...
Are you...
This way!


Wahhah haha!
And I am going to inspect and see just what kinds of women that monkey has in here!
It is a natural desire to seek the pleasure of women...
I've been refreshed in the bath, and my stomach is satisfied Women come next.

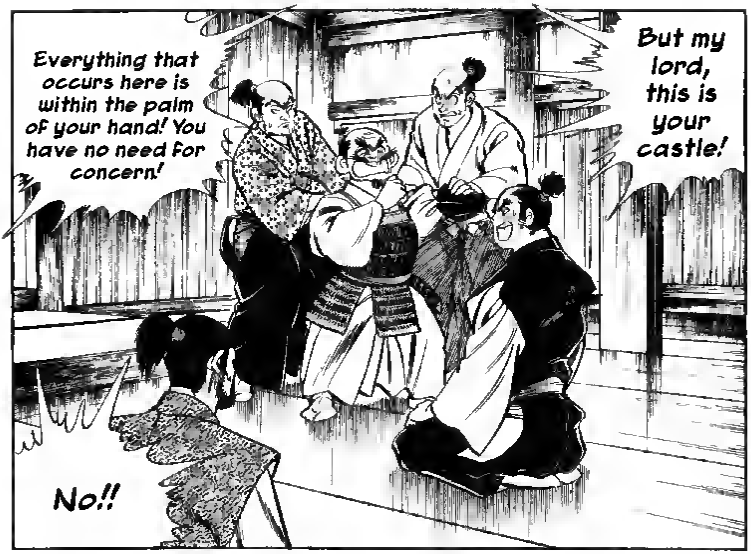
Aiiieee eeee!
Who goes there? These are our chambers!
Men are not allowed here! Turn back!!
Ohhhhh, there's nothing to worry about.
Everything the monkey owns was given him by me!!
Here, here!
Show me your p***y!
What's his is mine!
Aiiiieeee eeeee!

What is all the commotion ..?
What!?
He is assaulting the chambermaids one by one!
There is a strange creep infiltrating your quarters, my lady!
Bring me my sword!
What insolence..

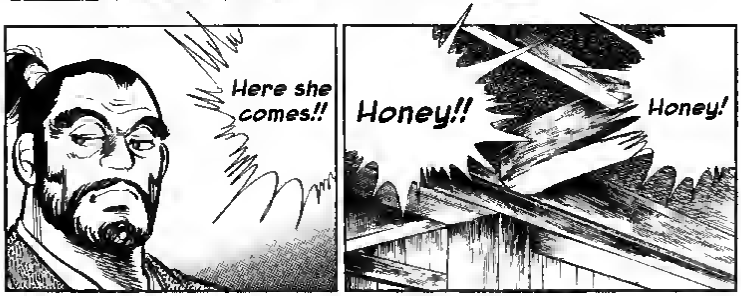
You damn moron!
Long time no see... Just give me a second...
Ohhhh, it's you, Nene...

I-
Is it done!?
Your pardon, my lord!!
Well? What happened!?
Well...
W...
Ahhh hhhhh hhh!!
Those two men have infiltrated the maid chambers!
Reporting in!

You deserve far better than that flea-ridden monkey.
You have grown yet more beautiful since I last saw you, Nene...
Are you really my lord...?
M... M...My lord...
I'm not dead, and I won't die so easily!
Wah haha haha!
You're alive!!
Waaa hhhhh hhhh!
Fetch me my armor!!
My armor!
This is not good!
D... Damn ..


Everything that occurs here is within the palm of your hand! You have no need for concern!
But my lord, this is your castle!
No!!

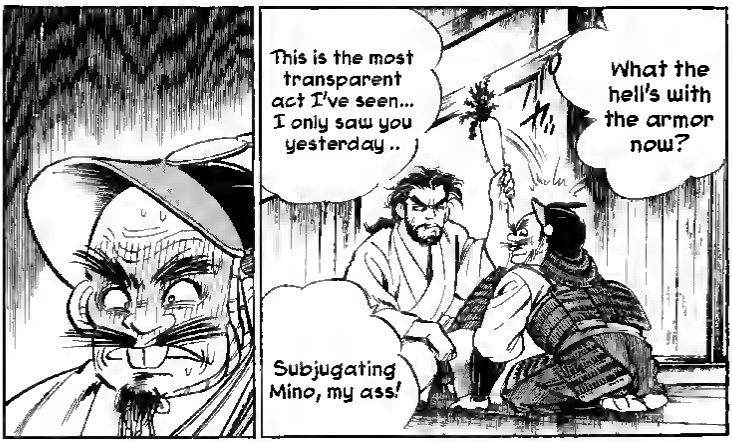
That woman is madly in love with the Lord!
If Nene finds out, I'm through!

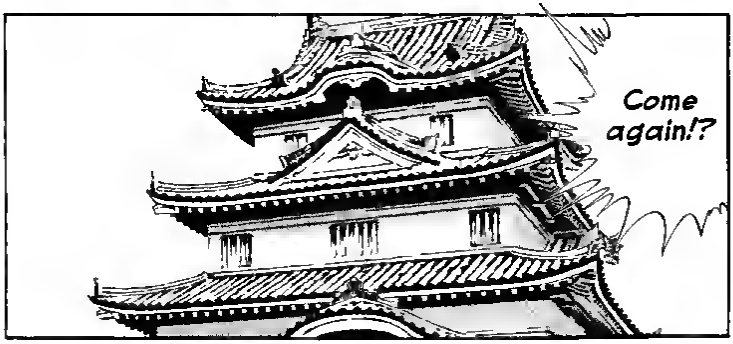

Here she comes!!
Honey!!
Honey!

So this humble monkey has only just now returned to the castle...
I have been delayed in subjugating Akechi Mitsuhide's territory of Omi and Mino...
so I apologize for the delay, and I beg...
And as you can see, I am still in my armor

My lord!
M-
My...
Your
pardon...
Y...

There... There is no greater joy for me than this!
I am so delighted to see you alive and well!


This is the most transparent act I've seen... I only saw you yesterday ..
What the hell's with the armor now?
Subjugating Mino, my ass!


Come again!?

Go back to Nakamura and till the fields!!
Know your place! How could you think such a thing!
You plotted to kill the Lord...?
No, you misunderstand!

I said that! Didn't I?
Right...?
Nothing gives me more pleasure in life than being praised by the Lord!

Oh, come on!

Chikuzen.
Yes, my lord!
Koroku!
Kanbei.

My lord!!
Yes!

truly rule this nation...?
Can you...

Your rule is so great that no one can fathom it! We cannot possibly live up to it!
P.. Perish the thought, my lord!

Then even you can rule this nation...
But if I am supporting you from behind...
I want you to treat me as if I were dead...
Rule it well!
And I will leave this nation to you!

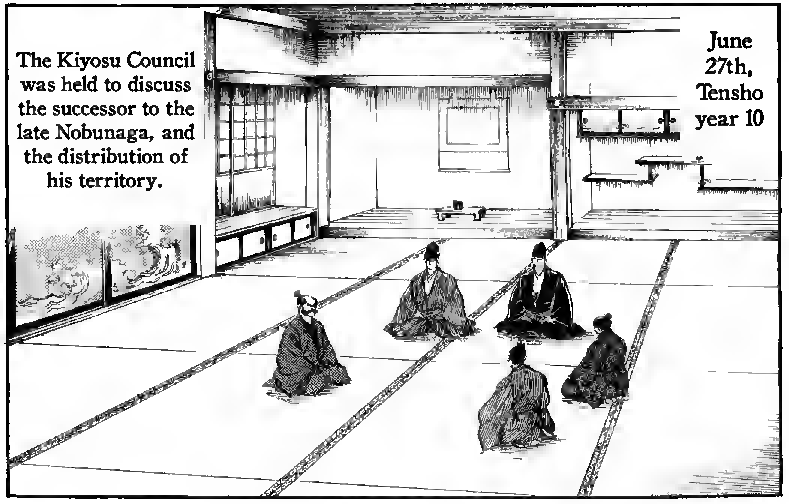
there are lands of eternal summer...
Elsewhere in this world...
There are deserts that cannot even be crossed for a year on horseback...
And I am thrilled just to hear of them!
I want it all!!

The great Genghis Khan of Mongolia...
unified the grassland nation... then conquered China and India...
If the king of the grasslands can do it...
Do you think that I couldn't...?
And even built his empire all the way to Europe!
You will unify this nation,
while I...
will build a fleet...

GWAAAHHAHAHA HAAAAAAAAAAH!
And go forth to conquer the world!!

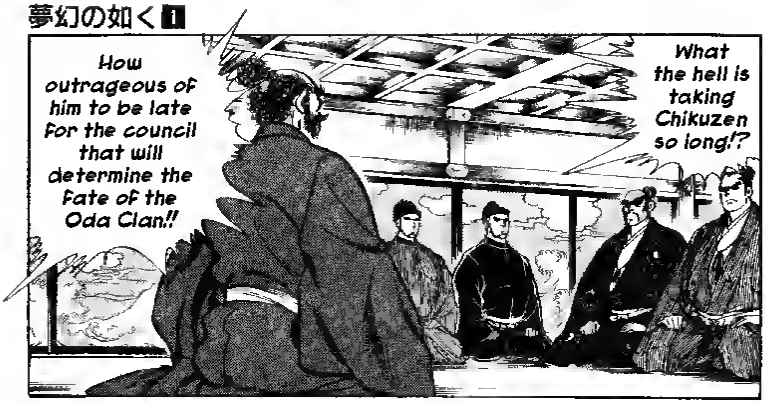
Look! It's him!
That's Lord Hideyoshi, the man who defeated Akechi Mitsuhide and avenged the Lord Oda!
Whoa! Look at that army!

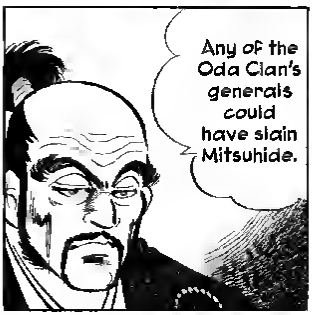
Kiyosu Castle, Owari


The Kiyosu Council was held to discuss the successor to the late Nobunaga, and the distribution of his territory.
June 27th, Tensho year 10

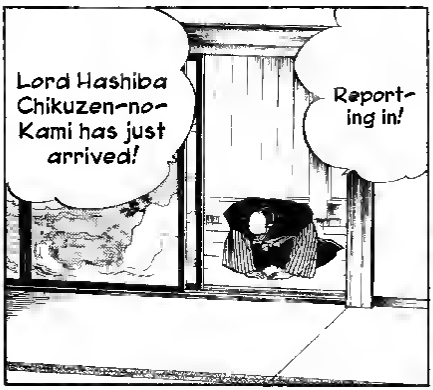
This man may be the next ruler of the nation!
He sure looks dignified!

SHIBITA SHURI-NO-SUKE KATSUI
IKEDA TSUNEOKI
NIWA GOROZAEMON NAGAHIDE
He's late!
NOBUNAGA'S SECOND SON ODA NOBUKATSU
NOBUNAGA'S THIRD SON KANBE NOBUTAKA


How outrageous of him to be late for the council that will determine the fate of the Oda Clan!!
What the hell is taking Chikuzen so long!?


Any of the Oda Clan's generals could have slain Mitsuhide.

That damn monkey sure loves to assume importance.
Hmpf... He acts like he's a hero for avenging my father...


Lord Hashiba Chikuzen-no-Kami has just arrived!
Report-ing in!

That is no reason to give him the highest standing of the Oda Clan!
He was just in the right place at the right time.

How dare you keep not only the hereditary vassals of the Oda Clan, but the Lord's own sons waiting!!
Chikuzen!! You've pushed your luck too far this time!!
Well met, gentlemen.
Yes, well met, indeed.
This is Lord Sanposhi, the heir to the Oda Clan!
Silence!! Do you realize who this is!?

Lord Nobutada, who perished in Kyoto with our Lord, was his heir Thus, he is of Lord Oda Nobunaga's hereditary lineage.
H...Have you lost your mind?
This is not by my will...
Goddamn monkey! How dare you make such arbitrary decisions before the council has even begun!!
Lord Sanposhi is the legitimate successor of the Oda Clan!

What did you say?
W...
But the Lord's!
You may enter!!
Urk!!
Waaa aaaaa augh!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 3

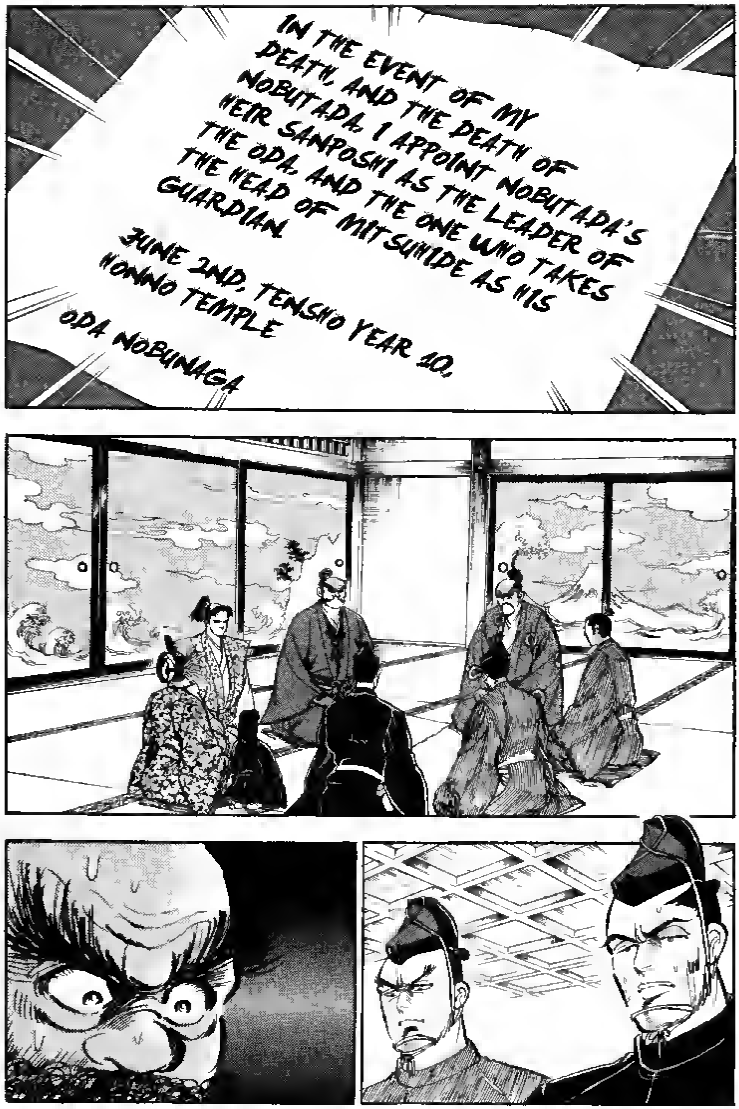
Chapter 4: The Devil King Moveth

Ranmaru!!
Are you the real Mori Ranmaru!?
Is that really you?

……
as well as Lords Shibata, Niwa, and Ikeda, it has been some time.
Lord Nobukatsu and Nobutaka,
How the hell are you...?
Honno Temple was a lodging that the Lord would frequent...
Y...You really are Ranmaru! B...But...
Is Father...?
S...So...
We had an underground tunnel prepared under the Lord's quarters.
He would spare no measures to prepare for the worst.

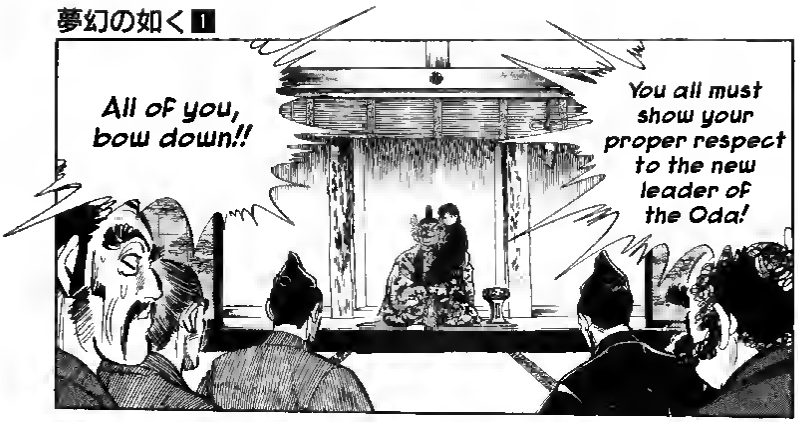
Are you saying he perished?
The Lord's disposition... made him face the army of Mitsuhide head-on.
That is indeed so...
How...

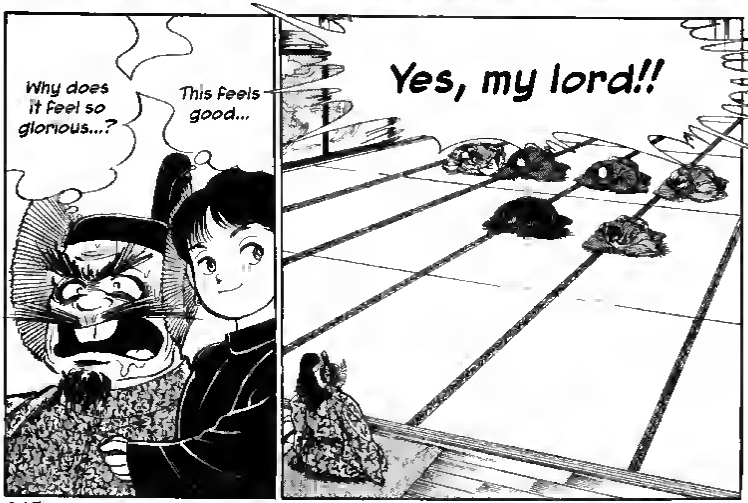
How could this be!?
Are you saying that it was possible to save him!?
Chikuzen!! What is the Lord's will?
Sir Mori Ranmaru..
Go ahead, show them.


IN THE EVENT OF MY DEATH, AND THE DEATH OF NOBUTADA, I APPOINT NOBUTADA'S HEIR SANPOSHI AS THE LEADER OF THE ODA, AND THE ONE WHO TAKES THE HEAD OF MITSUHIDE AS HIS GUARDIAN.
JUNE 2ND, TENSHO YEAR 10, HONNO TEMPLE
ODA NOBUNAGA

that he entrusted you with this right before Honno Temple burned down?
You say...
Indeed...
the Lord's hand writing.
Well, this is undoubtedly...

Heave-ho...
Show your respect!


All of you, bow down!!
You all must show your proper respect to the new leader of the Oda!

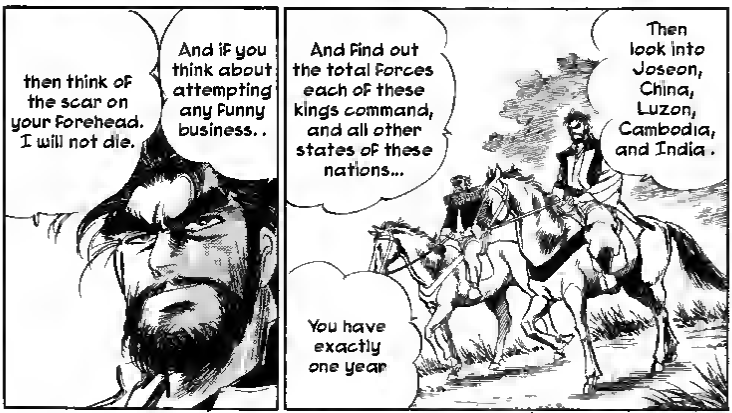

Why does it feel so glorious...?
This feels good...
Yes, my lord!!

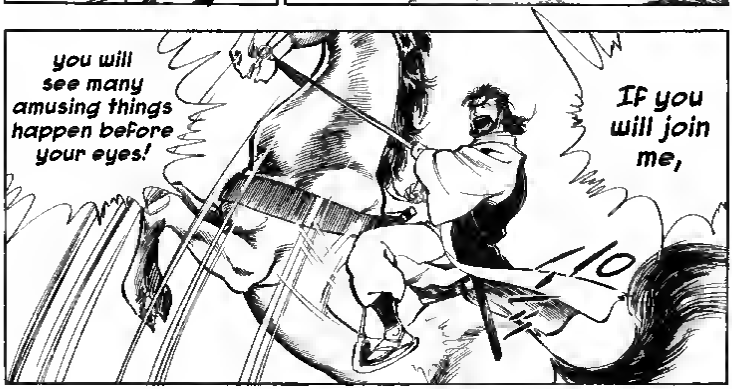
Cabral...

Korean, Chinese... and Indian, Portuguese, and European...

Yes, my lord?

into the tongue of the Rising Sun.
Bring me five thousand men who can interpret these tongues...

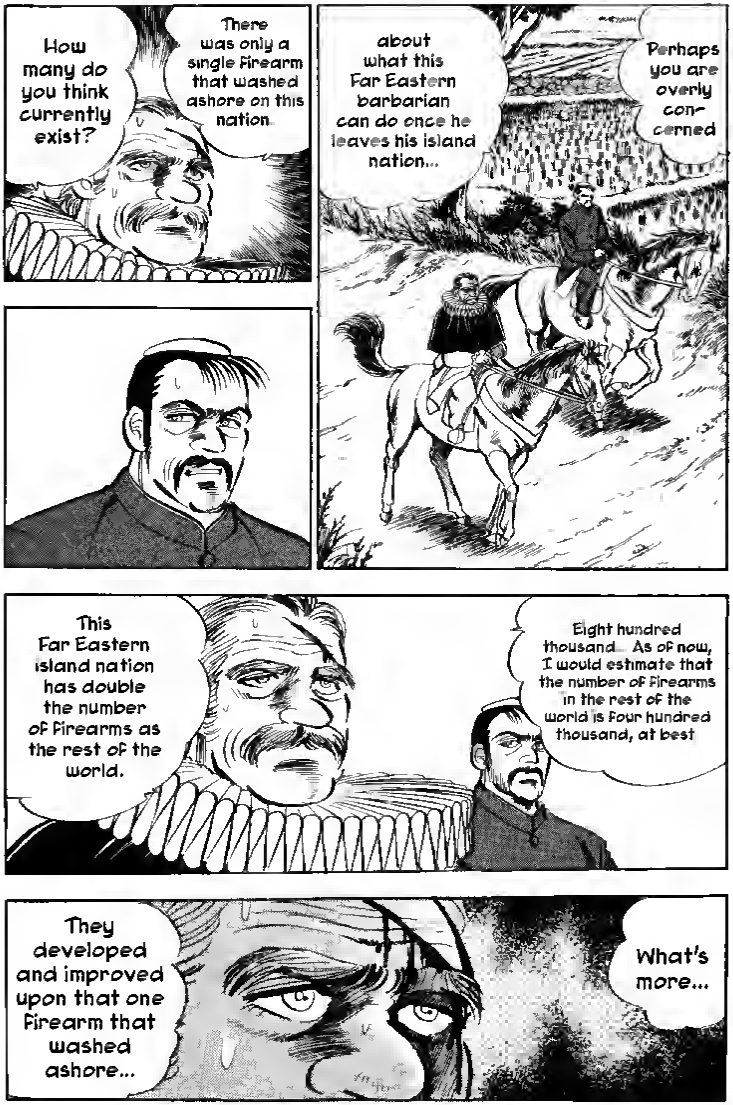

then think of the scar on your forehead. I will not die.
And if you think about attempting any funny business..
And find out the total forces each of these kings command, and all other states of these nations...
Then look into Joseon, China, Luzon, Cambodia, and India.
You have exactly one year

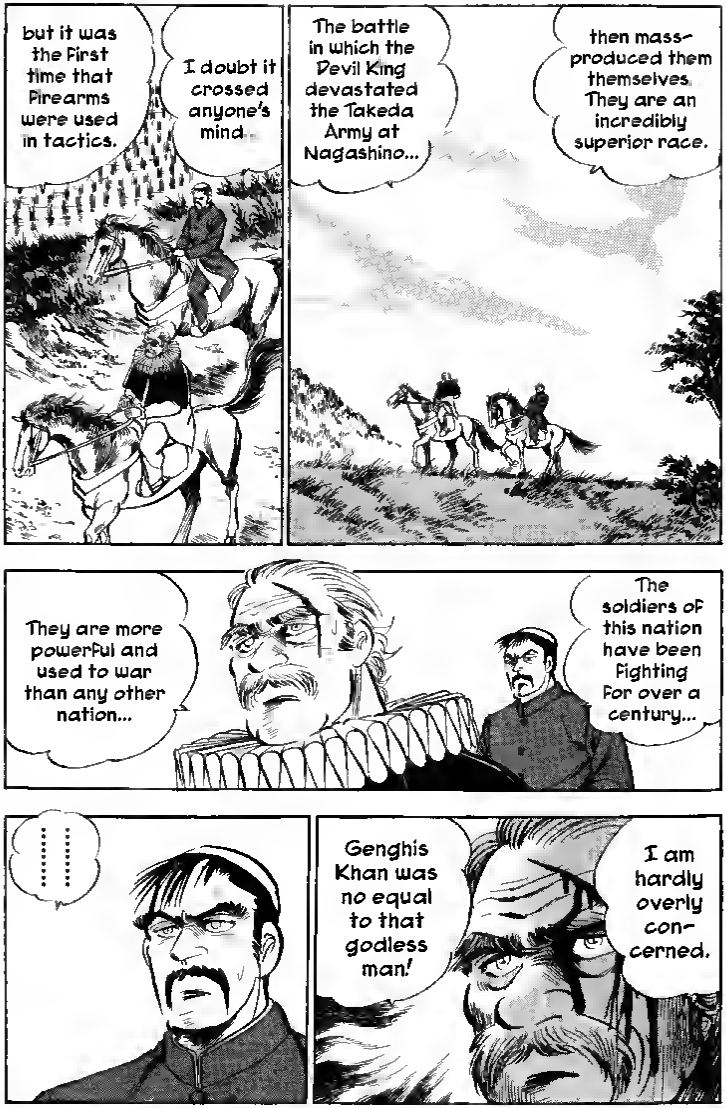

you will see many amusing things happen before your eyes!
If you will join me,

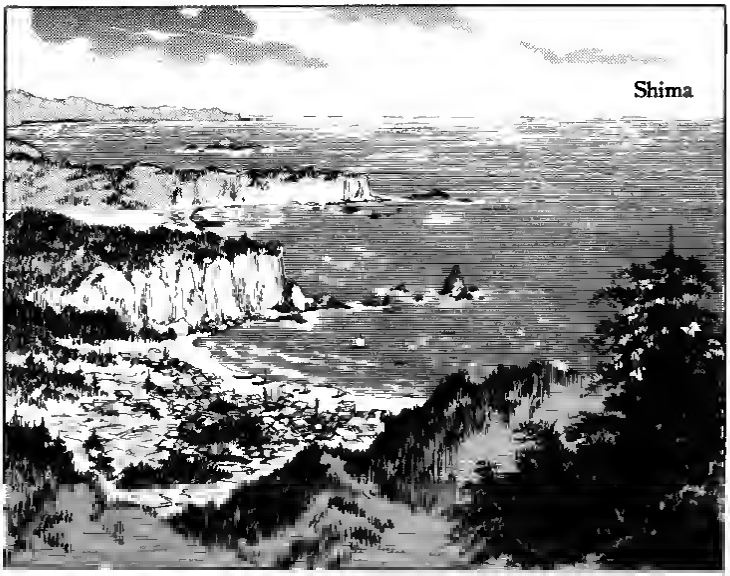
Yes, my lord!!
Come with me, Koroku!
Gwaaah hahaha haaaaa aaaah!

It seems...

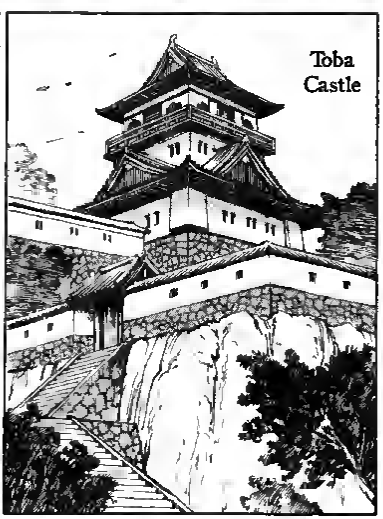
But...
The worst-case scenario you were afraid of is becoming a reality.


How many do you think currently exist?
There was only a single firearm that washed ashore on this nation.
about what this Far Eastern barbarian can do once he leaves his island nation...
Perhaps you are overly concerned
This Far Eastern island nation has double the number of firearms as the rest of the world.
Eight hundred thousand... As of now, I would estimate that the number of firearms in the rest of the world is four hundred thousand, at best
They developed and improved upon that one firearm that washed ashore...
What's more...


but it was the first time that firearms were used in tactics.
I doubt it crossed anyone's mind.
The battle in which the Devil King devastated the Takeda Army at Nagashino...
then mass-produced them themselves. They are an incredibly superior race.
They are more powerful and used to war than any other nation...
The soldiers of this nation have been fighting for over a century...
.....
Genghis Khan was no equal to that godless man!
I am hardly overly concerned.

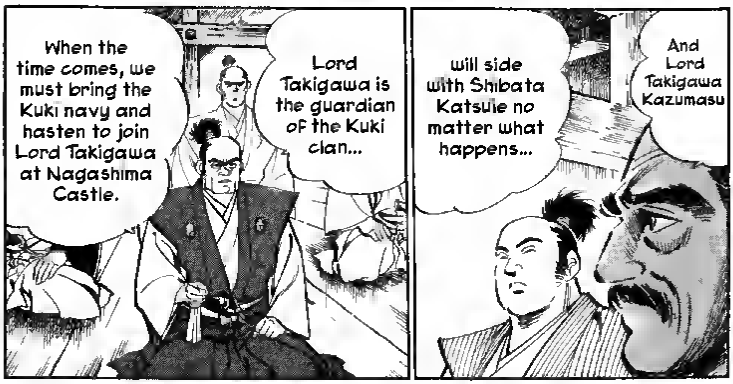

Shima

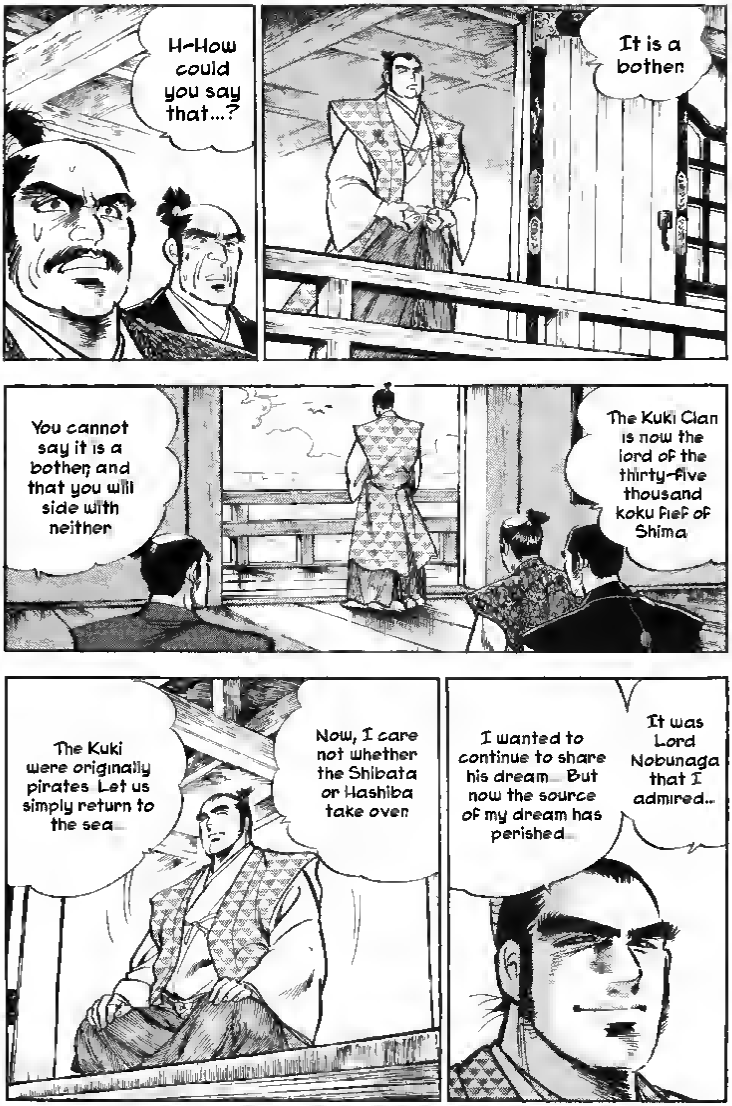
Not a chance...
LORD OF TOBA CASTLE AND THE THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND *KOKU* FIEF OF SHIMA
KUKI YOSHITAKA

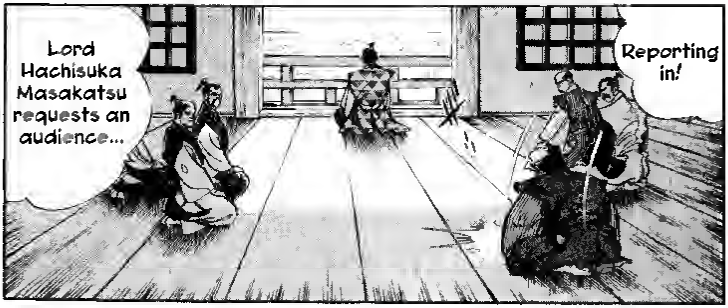

Toba Castle

The Oda retainers have held a council in Kiyosu.
I'm afraid we don't have a choice.

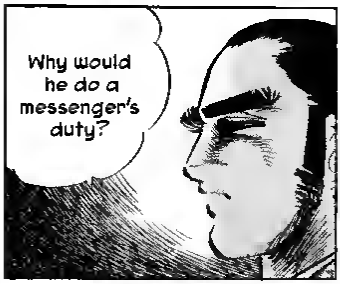
But it will not end this way. The Hashiba and the Shibata are almost certainly going to quarrel over succession of the Oda clan.
And Lord Hashiba has gained the right of authority for his merit of slaying Mitsuhide...


When the time comes, we must bring the Kuki navy and hasten to join Lord Takigawa at Nagashima Castle.
Lord Takigawa is the guardian of the Kuki clan...
will side with Shibata Katsuie no matter what happens...
And Lord Takigawa Kazumasu

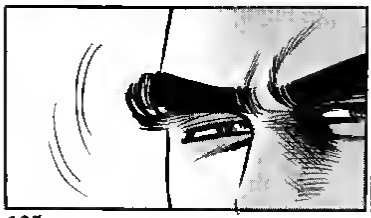

H-How could you say that...?
It is a bother
You cannot say it is a bother, and that you will side with neither
The Kuki Clan is now the lord of the thirty-five thousand koku fief of Shima
The Kuki were originally pirates. Let us simply return to the sea...
Now, I care not whether the Shibata or Hashiba take over
I wanted to continue to share his dream... But now the source of my dream has perished...
It was Lord Nobunaga that I admired...

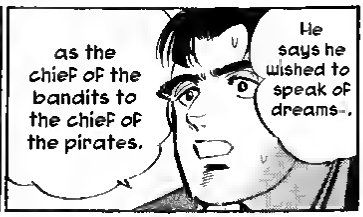

Lord Hachisuka Masakatsu requests an audience...
Reporting in!

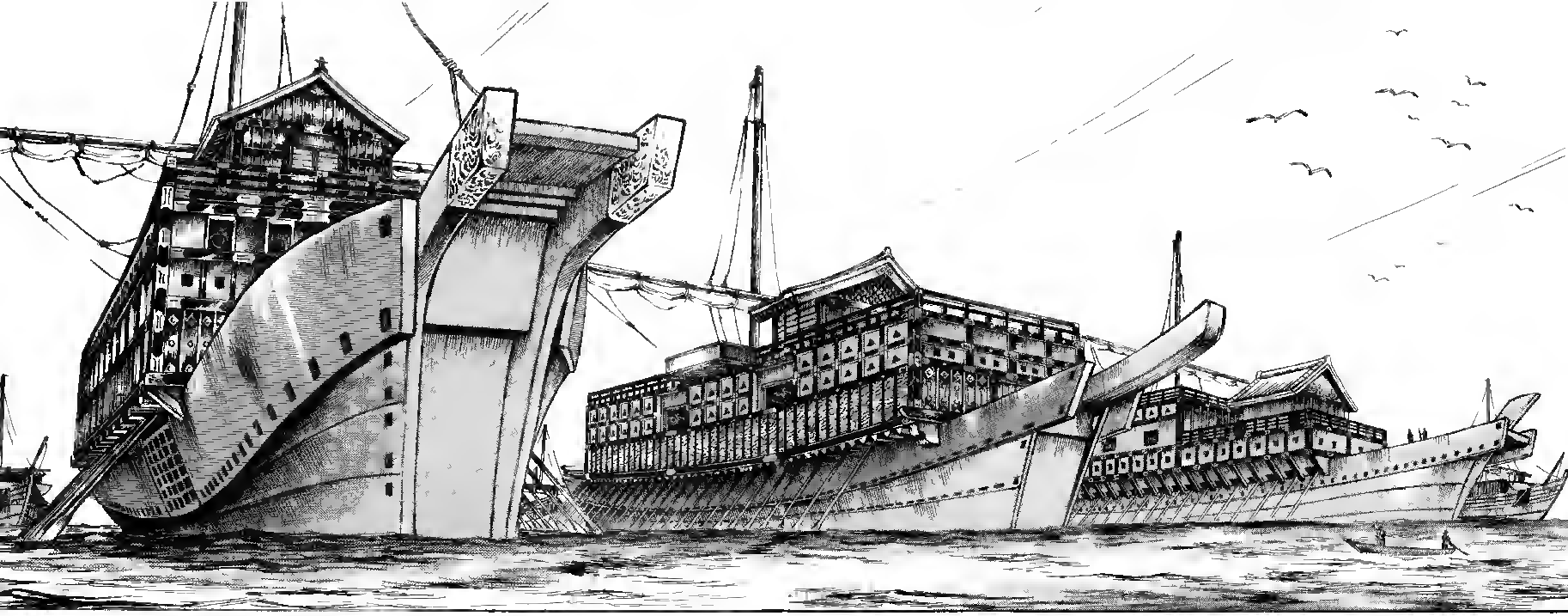
A messenger of Hashiba ...?
H... Hachi-suka...?


Why would he do a messenger's duty?

Why would he do a messenger's duty?
But Hachisuka Masakatsu is Hashiba's veteran general, and the lord of a fifty-three thousand koku fief!




as the chief of the bandits to the chief of the pirates.
He says he wished to speak of dreams--.



These are far more impressive than I have heard.

So these are the iron warships of the Kuki Navy that devastated the Mori Navy in the Battle of Kizukawa Bay?

These were the Lord Oda's idea.

When he ordered me to build them, I was simply dumbFounded.

But that man's thoughts ... Even for just one boat,

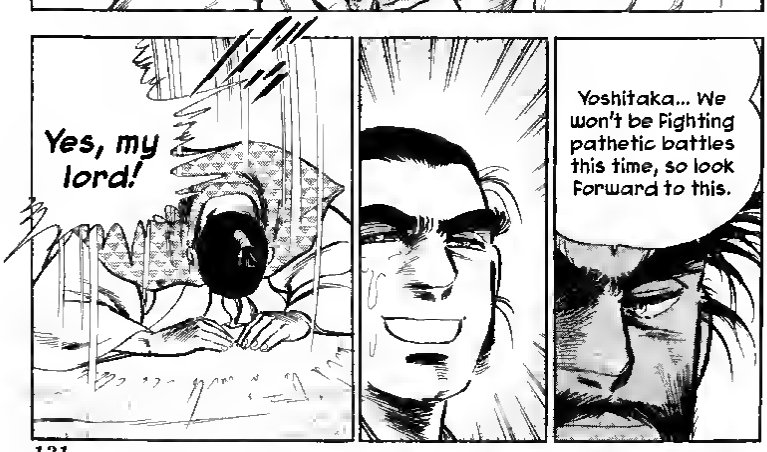
far exceeded that of ours, who were born on the sea.

I caught some fish... Come here and dine with me...
Hey, you bandits and pirates!

That is the Lord.
L...Lord Hachisuka...
Look. I've got legs.
You look like you've seen a ghost, Yoshitaka...
I am pleased to see you well!! There could be no greater joy for me!
My lord!!

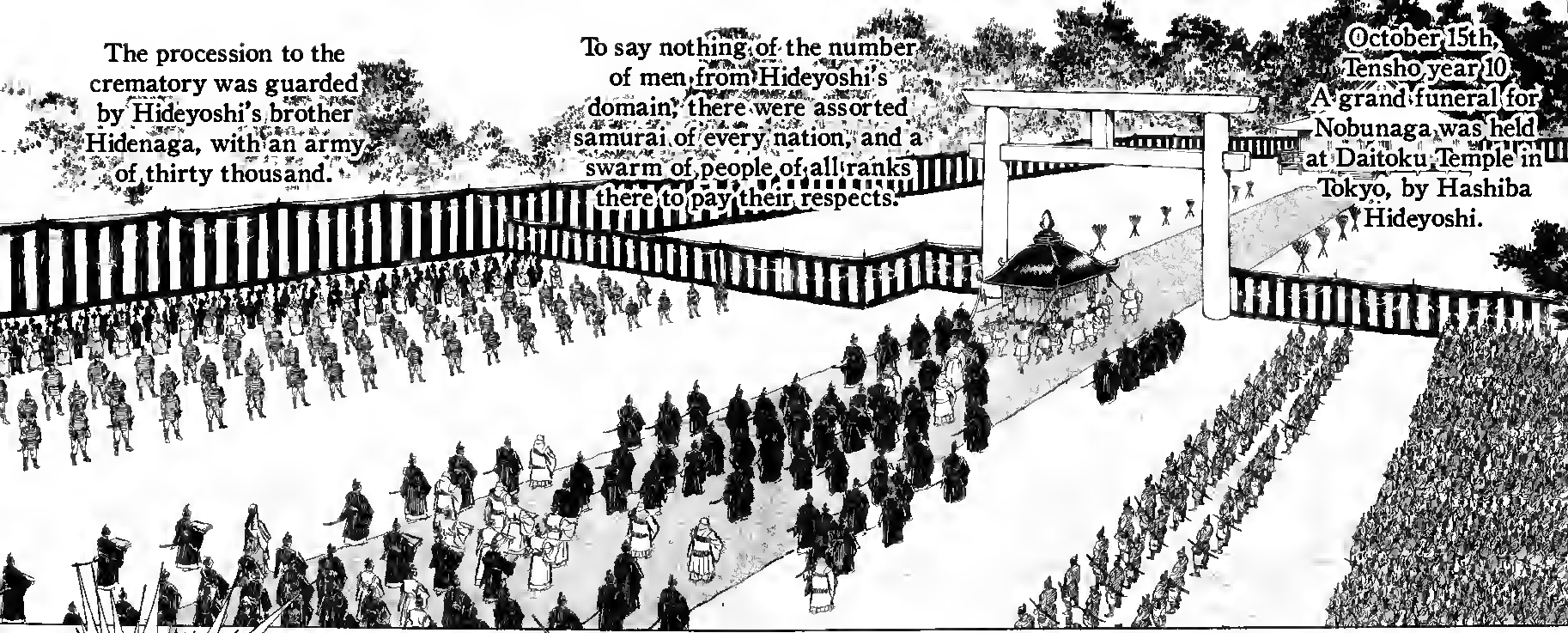
Assemble me a navy, with a fleet of five hundred iron ships.
of Shima, Kii, and Shikoku at once.
Kuki Yoshitaka... Round up the pirates

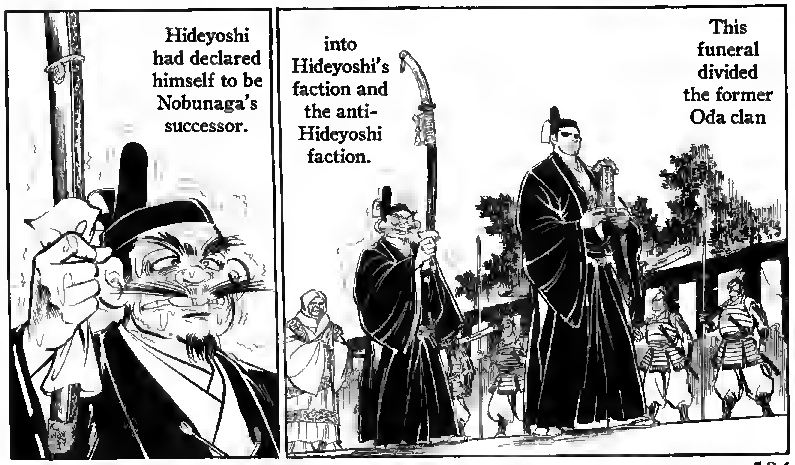
You have a yean
Also, inspect the Portuguese and Dutch ships, and build ships that equal them.


Yes, my lord!
Yoshitaka... We won't be fighting pathetic battles this time, so look forward to this.

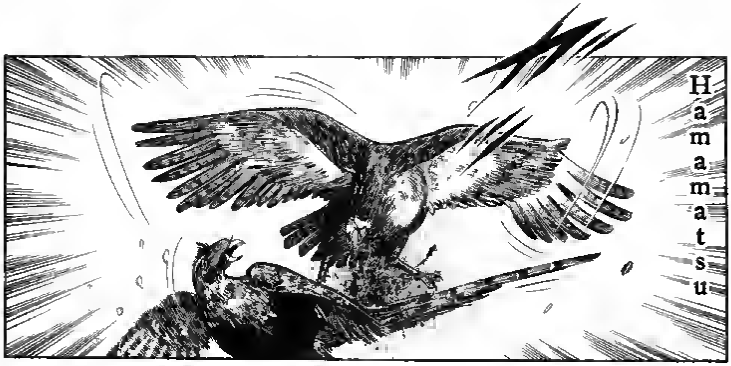
You must demonstrate to the nation that Hashiba Hideyoshi will hold this ceremony with great pomp and circumstance
I am saying that you ought to hold a funeral for the Lord.
What did you just say, Kanbei?
What!?
He'll glare me to death if I do that!!
But the Lord is alive and well!
Enough!! What do you take ruling the nation for!?

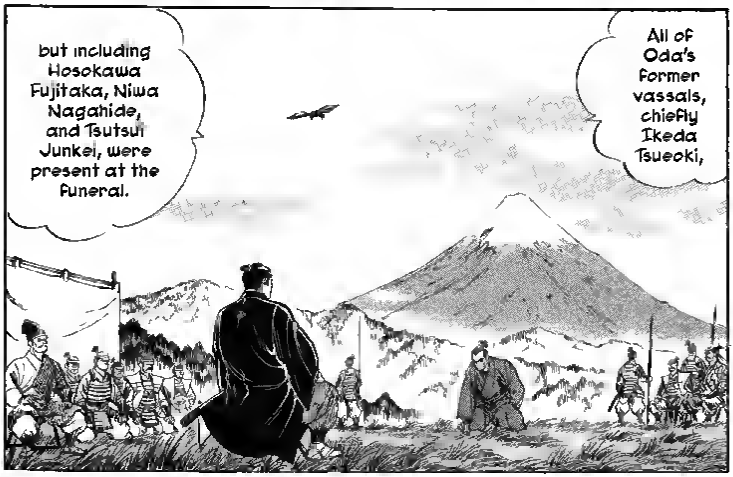
You...
Kanbei...
is the duty to be accomplished by he who has the mandate of Heaven.
Ruling the nation...
have the mandate of Heaven...?
I...
For this is a duty you must perform.
You had best prepare yourself...
is a sinner who abandoned his duty as a ruler!
Oda Nobu-naga...
All of the ruler's efforts are repaid by Heaven.
the nation itself will be spread before your eyes, whether you like it or not.
As Heaven is siding with you..

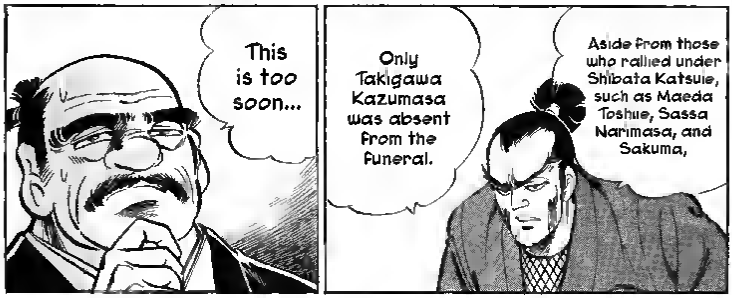

October 15th, Tensho year 10 A grand funeral for Nobunaga was held at Daitoku Temple in Tokyo, by Hashiba Hideyoshi.
To say nothing of the number of men from Hideyoshi's domain, there were assorted samurai of every nation, and a swarm of people of all ranks there to pay their respects.
The procession to the crematory was guarded by Hideyoshi's brother Hidenaga, with an army of thirty thousand.


Hideyoshi had declared himself to be Nobunaga's successor.
into Hideyoshi's faction and the anti-Hideyoshi faction.
This funeral divided the former Oda clan

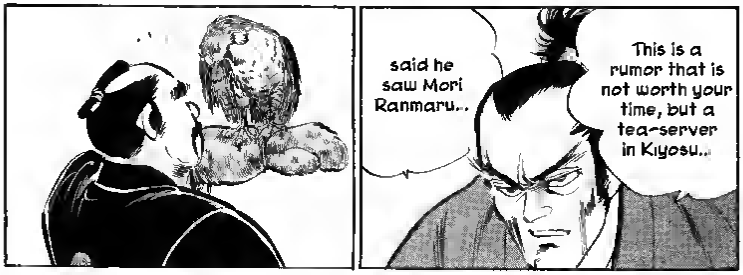
Gwaaah hahaha haaaa aaaah!
That monkey has gone and done it now!


Hamamatsu


All of Oda's former vassals, chiefly Ikeda Tsueoki,
but including Hosokawa Fujitaka, Niwa Nagahide, and Tsutsui Junkei, were present at the funeral.


Aside from those who rallied under Shibata Katsuie, such as Maeda Toshue, Sassa Narimasa, and Sakuma,
Only Takigawa Kazumasa was absent from the funeral.
This is too soon...

What exactly happened in Kiyosu?
Hideyoshi is moving too fast for nothing to have happened there!
Should he move any further,
then Ieyasu in Mikawa... will be bound hand and foot...


said he saw Mori Ranmaru...
This is a rumor that is not worth your time, but a tea-server in Kiyosu...

What!?

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

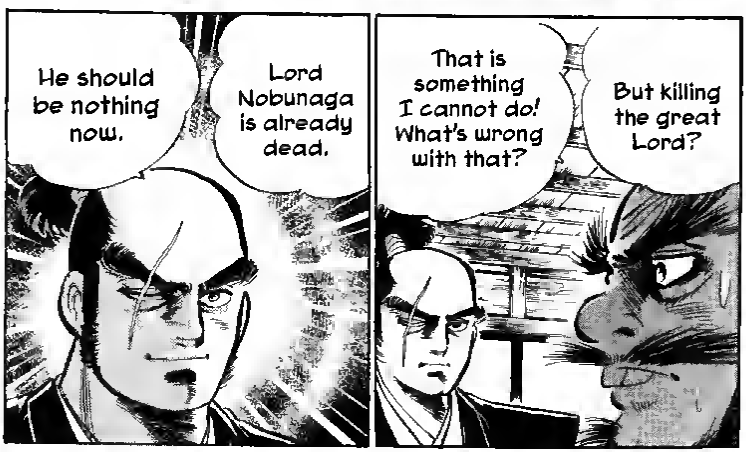
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 4

This is the mandate of Heaven that you must rule the nation!
All of these fortunate opportunities that are branching out before your very eyes are blessings that prove the heavens are in your favor...

And I will do everything I can to keep the nation of Japan within my grasp.
I understand, Kanbei...


He should be nothing now.
Lord Nobunaga is already dead.
That is something I cannot do! What's wrong with that?
But killing the great Lord?

Chapter 5: The Devil King and the Bandits

Ieyasu's
Castle
Hamamatsu
Castle

What would you do...?

If Lord Nobunaga were still in this world, as you are now...
High Priest Tenkai ...

Having entered the priesthood, my name is now Tenkai...
Akechi Mitsuhide... is a name I have renounced...

Is that so?

Lord Mitsu-hide...
With all due respect,

N...
Now...
My lord! My lord!
He would have torn the nation in twain...
Had I left the Devil King alive...
Has Hideyoshi sent you!?
Damn you, ruffians!

We are to aid Lord Ishida Mitsunari's escape...
We are men of Tokugawa Ieyasu, Lord of Mikawa.
Tenkai!
Yes, my lord!

You are a great general.
Surely you confirmed Lord Nobunaga's head at Honno Temple.
Or don't tell me
that you failed to do so...
The flames of Honno Temple blazed like hellfire itself...
Surely there was no need to confirm...
So you failed!!
Yes...
I failed to do so...
A messenger of Shibata Katsuie...

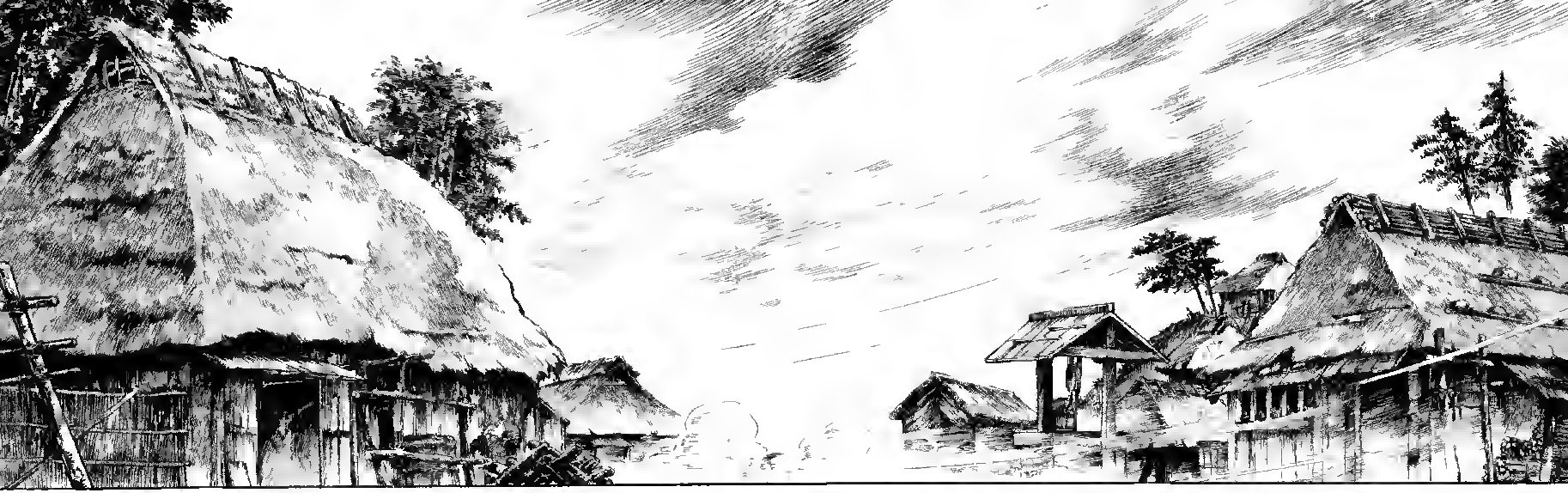
entered the castle of Kiyosu and presented Lord Nobunaga's will.
Formally informed me that Mori Ranmaru ..
There is a sufficient possibility that Lord Nobunaga is alive, as well...
And if Ranmaru is alive...
then I can accept that the cowardly Hideyoshi is brimming with confidence in his actions...
If he is alive, and supporting Hideyoshi...
But I don't understand...

I mean, Priest Tenkai...
Mitsu-hide...
Why does he stay silent and let Chikuzen have his way...?
If he lives, why does he not declare himself...?
If Hideyoshi were to defeat Katsuie, then Hashiba Chikuzen-no-Kami Hideyoshi would succeed the Oda
naturally follows...
I have been receiving messengers from Shibata Katsuie and Hideyoshi on a daily basis. The fact that they will soon clash...
I cannot defeat Hideyoshi with the whole of the Oda army behind him...
Should that happen... then I, Ieyasu, will be forced to stand down-wind of that monkey.

is for me to take custody of the great Lord Oda...
to put a halt to Hideyoshi's ambition...
The only way...
By your pardon, I wish to be by your side to aid in your rule... What is more...
I, Mitsuhide... have considered my life forfeit... until you saved me...
Simply take him to Mikawa alive...
You must not kill him...
may be the mandate of Heaven to take that man's life once more...
The fact that I am still here, though I have laid down my life...

made a sudden appearance in the pages of history as Ieyasu's associate...
The High Priest Tenkai, now laid to rest in Nikko Toshogu alongside Tokugawa Ieyasu,
is still very likely.
That theory...
Was he really Akechi Mitsuhide?
Yoshio

The damned Devil King...
That must not come to pass!
to tear the nation in twain once more?
Has he departed from Hell,

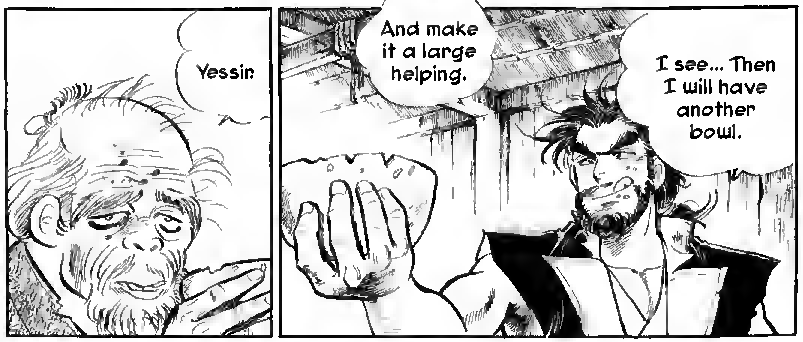


After all, the bandits will be on our doorstep in two or three days.
Once they come, they will take everything that's left...

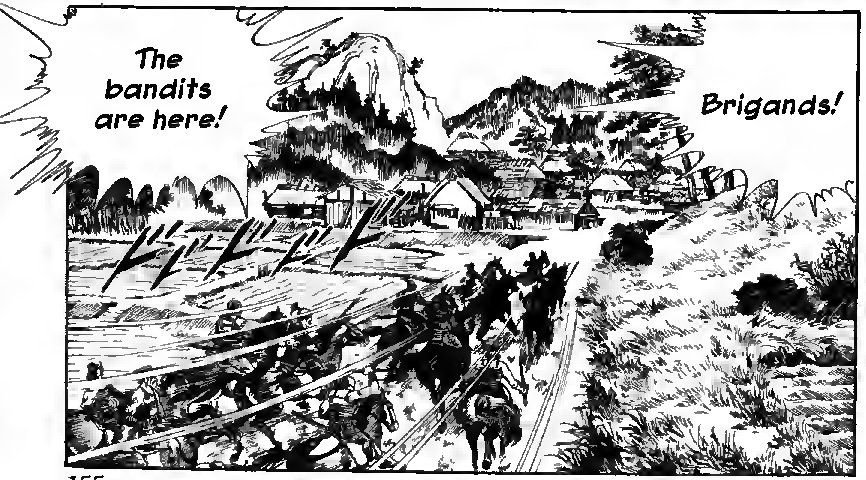
I give you my gratitude for sharing your precious food with me!
Thank you, old man!

Do not be worried.

And when they do, death will be all that awaits us...
They even intend to take our seed rice this year.


Yessir.
And make it a large helping.
I see... Then I will have another bowl.

うおおおお


The bandits are here!
Brigands!
ドドドドド

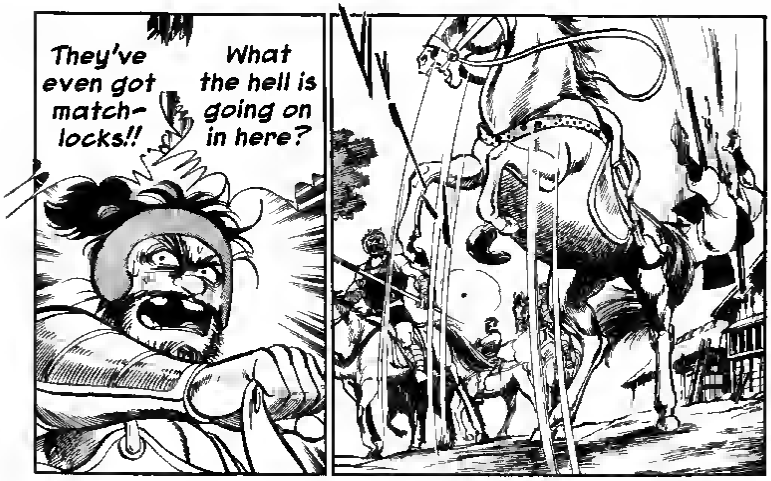
You got the food ready!?
C'mon!
Gyaaa hhh!

Out of my way, dammit!
Aiiee eeee!
Resist us, and we'll raze the village to the ground!
Bring all your rice into the village square!!
Make it quick!

Gyeh hhhhh hhhh!
What the hell!?

So those villagers must have hired some samurai...
I see...
Yeah-hhhh!
Kill them! Kill them all!
These poor peasants can't have hired more than seven or eight samurai!

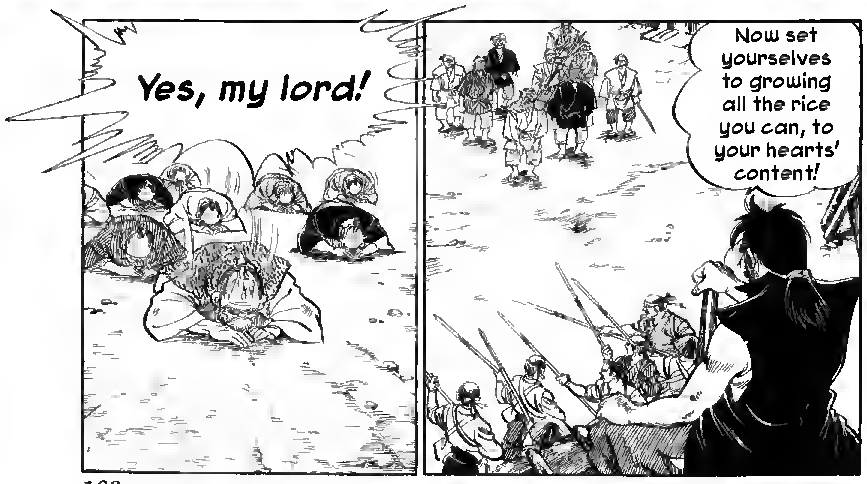
カポ…

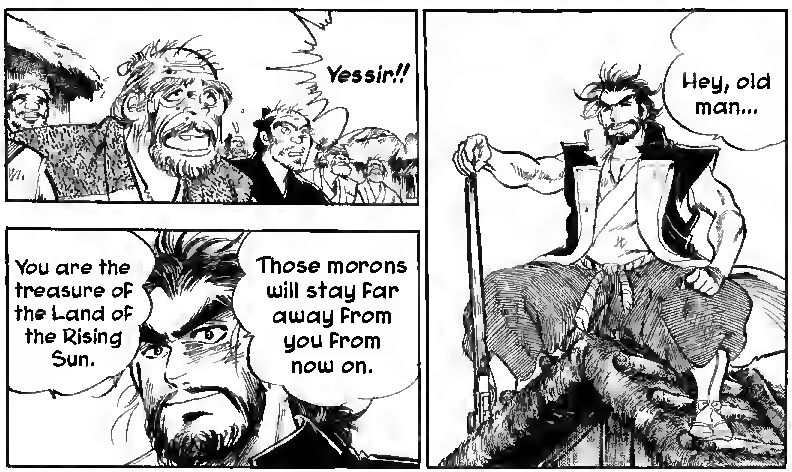

What the hell is going on in here?
They've even got match-locks!!

Gwaaahhahaha!

I won't let any of you lay a hand on my people!!
Not so fast, you rotten bandits!
Koroku!

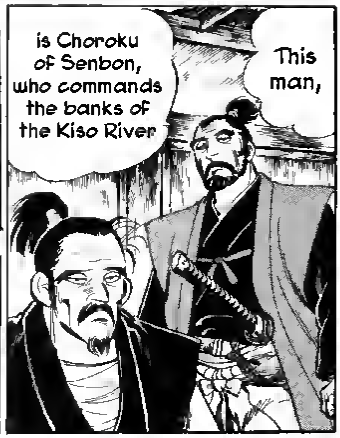
What the hell are you doing here?
Hachi-suka!
Long time no see, Nagayasu of Yamada...

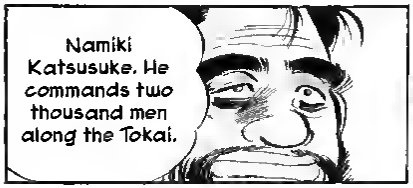

Yes, my lord!
Now set yourselves to growing all the rice you can, to your hearts' content!


Yessir!!
You are the treasure of the Land of the Rising Sun.
Those morons will stay far away from you from now on.
Hey, old man...

He has seven hundred men under his command.
Ishikura Hachirota. He left the Saiga of Kii and now lives on Mt. Iga.

Sakuma Gonsa, who controls the entire Yamato Mountains.


This man,
is Choroku of Senbon, who commands the banks of the Kiso River


Namiki Katsusuke. He commands two thousand men along the Tokai.

Isn't this a little arbitrary of you?
Hachi-suka...
To call up your former bandit comrades so you can use us as pawns in some war?

But... Don't expect us to work at your convenience!
You have left the Kawanami of the Kiso River to join Hideyoshi, and you are a lord now.

He's right! We're free men! We don't live under anyone's command...
And we never will, not even if Nobunaga came back to life!

What a joke you half-cocked lot are...
You call yourselves free men?
A pack of warped underdogs...?
Koroku... Is this how bandits really are?
And now you think you can kill us...?
Where'd you get the balls to even think about calling us half-cocked...?
Whoa, whoa...
They are no use to me. Kill them all.
Very well, my lord...

Which one's the joke here? I don't know who you think you are,
But we bandits have lived through this age of warring states without serving anyone...
Do not talk back to me!!
You bastards who thrive off of threatening the weak peasants can never talk back to me in a million years!!

I was going to let you assist me in my endeavors...
But I've changed my mind...

W-Wait--
Uh... Uh...
T...Those eyes...

I have crawled back from the depths of Hell...
You mites have no place in my nation.

And I will behead every last one of you.
No doubt about what!? What's with the eyes!?
T-There's no doubt about it!!
Waaaa aaugh! It's those eyes!
Nobu-naga!!
Whaaa aaaaa aat!?
He's Oda Nobu-naga!!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 5

Chapter 6:
Stepping Stone to the World

You worthless pieces of shit!!
I've encountered Lord Nobunaga while he was falconing.
W-When I was in Kiyosu...
It's Nobunaga!
What!?
Don't move, you fucking bastards!!
It's Lord Nobunaga!

I-It's the same eyes...
I have led him here personally...
Lord Koroku!

Lord Oda Nobunaga.
He is the true and genuine...
My lord...
I will pardon them, but they will be on your head.
Please, give them your pardon.
It would appear that these ruffians have understood.
Bow, you damn fools!

Yes, my lord!
You will no longer assault the peasants, and you will serve a purpose... This will kill two birds with one stone!
I will use you for my endeavor...
Yes, my lord!!
of the bandits of Mt. Iga...
Ishikura Hachirota...

Huh...?
Disguise yourself as fishers and pretend to be shipwrecked, then live as citizens of Joseon.
Take three hundred of your men, and infiltrate Joseon.
You will be grass.
I want you to grasp the nation of Joseon by the time I arrive, so you can pilot me.
And I use that to mean spies...
You don't mean...
U...Uh hh...

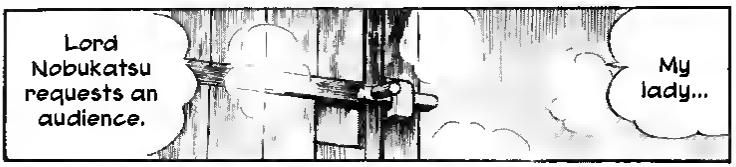
Yes, my lord!!
Yamada Nagayasu!!
Exactly. I will be stepping forward to conquering the world.
Your mission is the exact same.
You take three thousand of your men and enter China.
Luzon and Siam...
You will infiltrate...
Yes, my lord!
Namiki Katsusuke of the Tokai!!

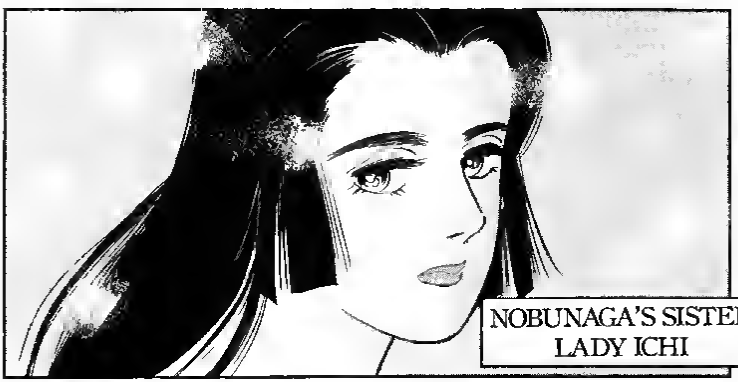
Kuki Yoshitaka of Shima has boats ready for you.
I will be sending the first wave by winter.
Yes, my lord!
Yes, my lord!
Choroku of Senbon, of the Kiso River and Sakuma Gonsuke of the Yamato Mountains!
You take a thousand of your men into India.

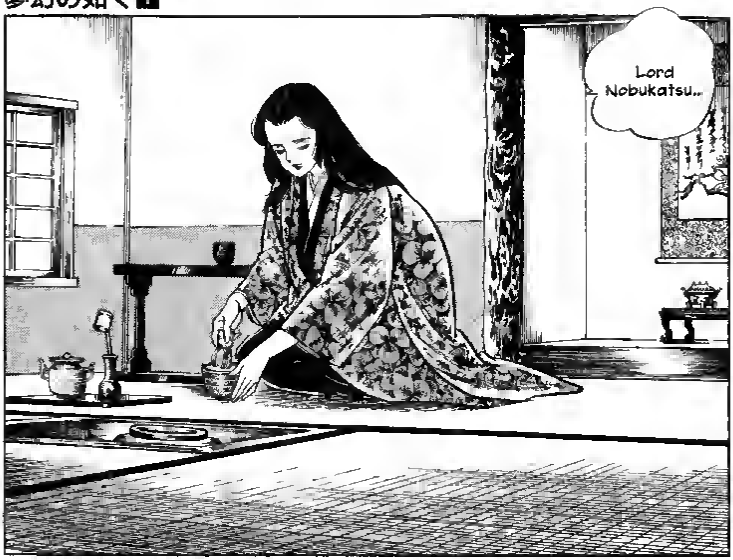
and I myself will cross over with an army of seventy thousand.
Within two years, I will send an advance guard of twenty thousand riflemen,

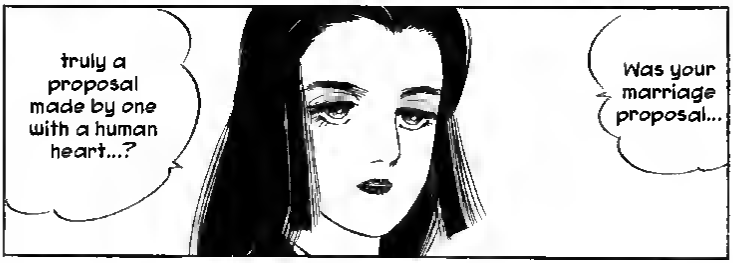
GWAH HAHA!
Dream with me! There's more than enough dreams to spare!
We will conquer lands of eternal summer and deserts of burning water!
GWAAH HAHAHA!
This may be his true nature.
W...What is wrong with the Lord?
Hachisuka.
Having returned from Hell, it appears that his bandit nature has come forth...
He is an incredible bandit chief!

No! I'm washing it!
No, no! I'm gonna wash Mama's back!
There, there. Don't fight, you two.


Lord Nobukatsu requests an audience.
My lady...


NOBUNAGA'S SISTER
LADY ICHI

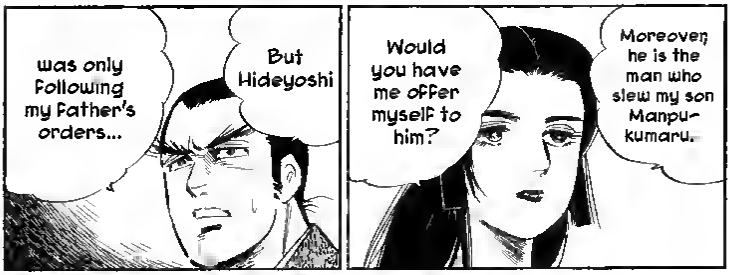

Lord Nobukatsu..

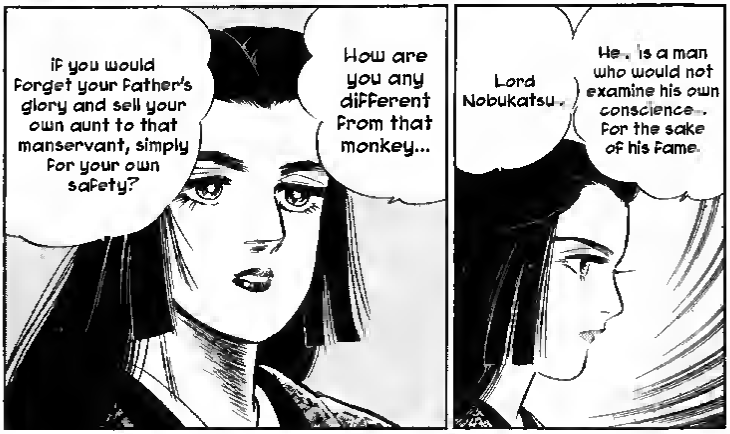

truly a proposal made by one with a human heart...?
Was your marriage proposal...

to become a mere concubine to Tokichiro?
If you had a human heart, why would you ask your own aunt

Huh...?

Hideyoshi.. attacked and defeated my husband Asai Nagamasa..
I..I was just trying to think of your happiness..
I...I never meant a...anything of the sort by that request...


was only following my father's orders...
But Hideyoshi
Would you have me offer myself to him?
Moreover, he is the man who slew my son Manpu-kumaru..

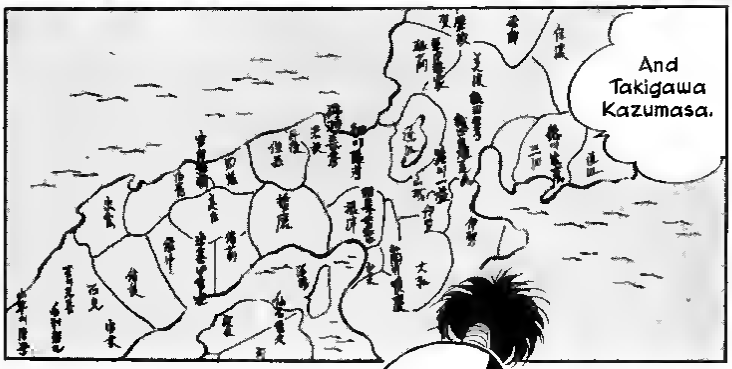

If you would forget your father's glory and sell your own aunt to that manservant, simply for your own safety?
How are you any different from that monkey...
Lord Nobukatsu..
He.. is a man who would not examine his own conscience.. for the sake of his fame.

Poor you...
And that both of your nephews would offer their own aunt as a human sacrifice..
To think that Lord Nobutaka would join Lord Shibata. and Lord Nobukatsu would join Lord Hideyoshi..
As much as the nation is at war...
Go and tell Lord Nobutaka...
Yes, my lady?
Kayede..

That Ichi will go to the Northern Manor...
to the side of Shibata Katsuie...
My lady...
I am fully aware that Hideyoshi... has the advantage in the Oda Clan's succession.
While I am aware.. I have my pride as a woman of the Warring States . and my pride as Oda Nobunaga's sister
But how pitiable we women are.
I may yet be exposed to the flames of hellfire again...

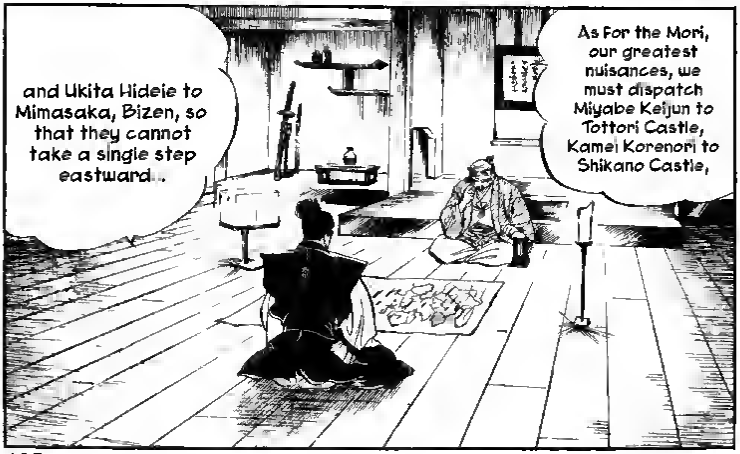
The Lord's death is proving to be more and more unfortunate...
No...
My brother's death may have been foretold by Heaven...
A man's life... is inescapably a part of the flow of nature...
Our lives, too...
are a part of that same flow of nature ...

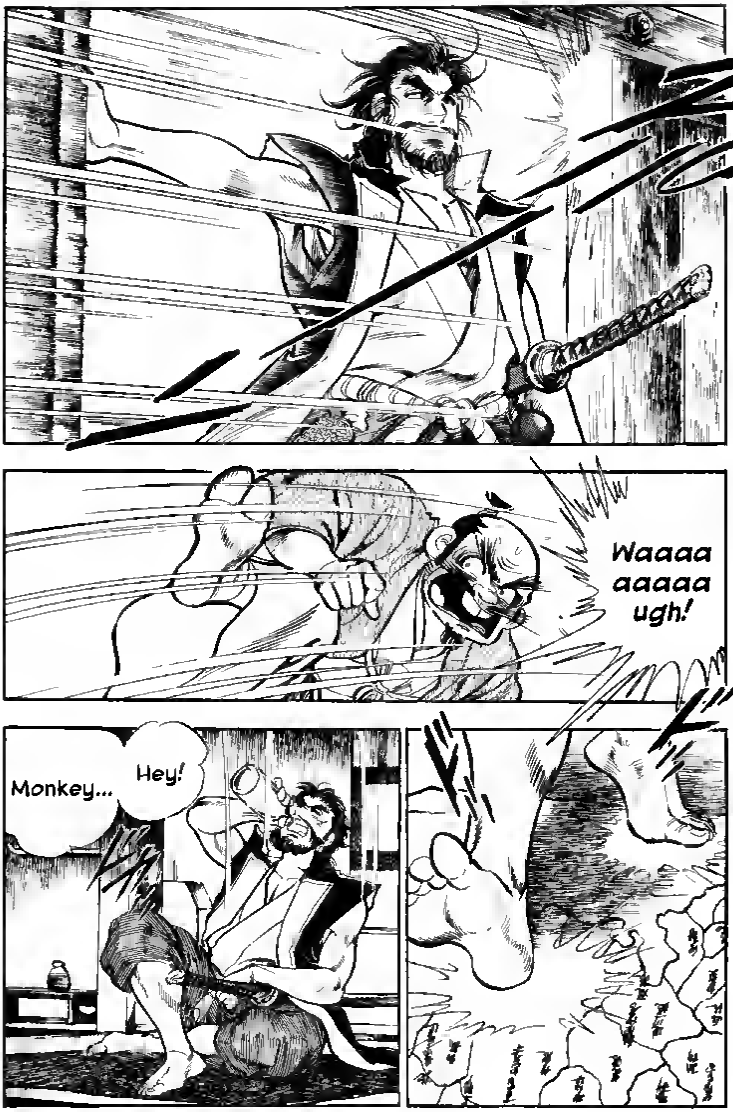
Shibata Katsuie...
Kyoto Takaradera Castle
Oda Nobutaka...


And Takigawa Kazumasa.

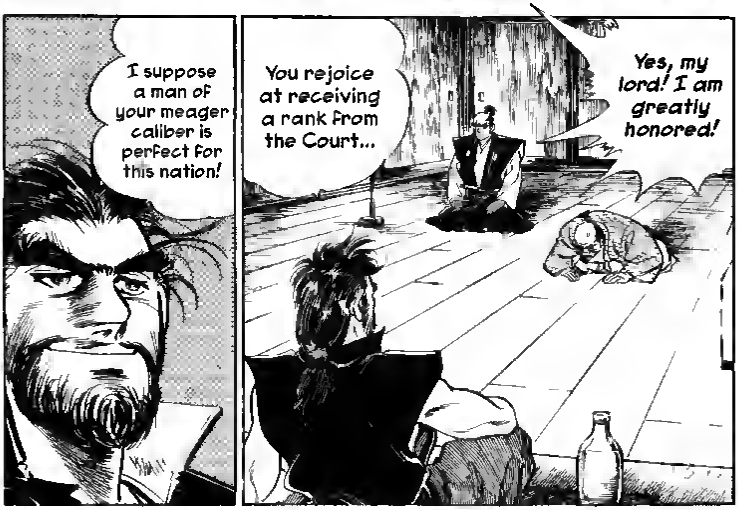
Then while we will have the interior line, Shibata will have the exterior.
If Mori were to join them,

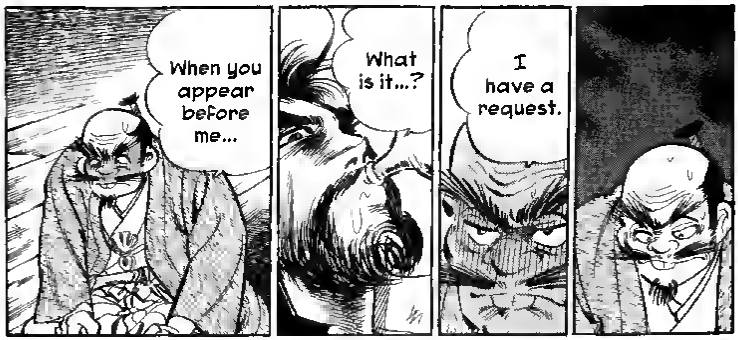
So before the Shibata, Takigawa, and Mori can lay their encirclement,
Then we in the interior line will be in grave danger.
And when this exterior line is bound by solid unity...
to eliminate Takigawa and Nobutaka's armies individually..
We must devise a strategy..


and Ukita Hideie to Mimasaka, Bizen, so that they cannot take a single step eastward..
As for the Mori, our greatest nuisances, we must dispatch Miyabe Keijun to Tottori Castle, Kamei Korenori to Shikano Castle,


Waaaa aaaaa ugh!
Monkey...
Hey!

Allow me to offer my congratulations...
I hear you are now a Lower Fifth-Rank Major General of the Left Guard.

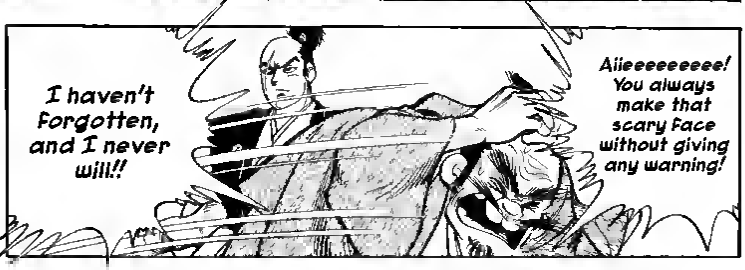

I suppose a man of your meager caliber is perfect for this nation!
You rejoice at receiving a rank from the Court...
Yes, my lord! I am greatly honored!


When you appear before me...
What is it...?
I have a request.

I must ask you to be quieter...
Also, that you would not leave on your own whim...
If anyone else learns that you are alive,
this will all be for naught.
It is only if I, Hideyoshi,
can rule this nation of the Rising Sun with a solid system...
that you will be able to accomplish your ambition of leading your forces overseas.

Get off your high horse, monkey...
there will be no nation to rule!
If anyone were to catch wind of Oda Nobunaga still being alive before then,
when you infuriate me.
I hope you haven't forgotten what happens...
The ruler of this nation does not have to be you.

I'll have you replaced with Ieyasu right away!!
I don't care which of you rules!

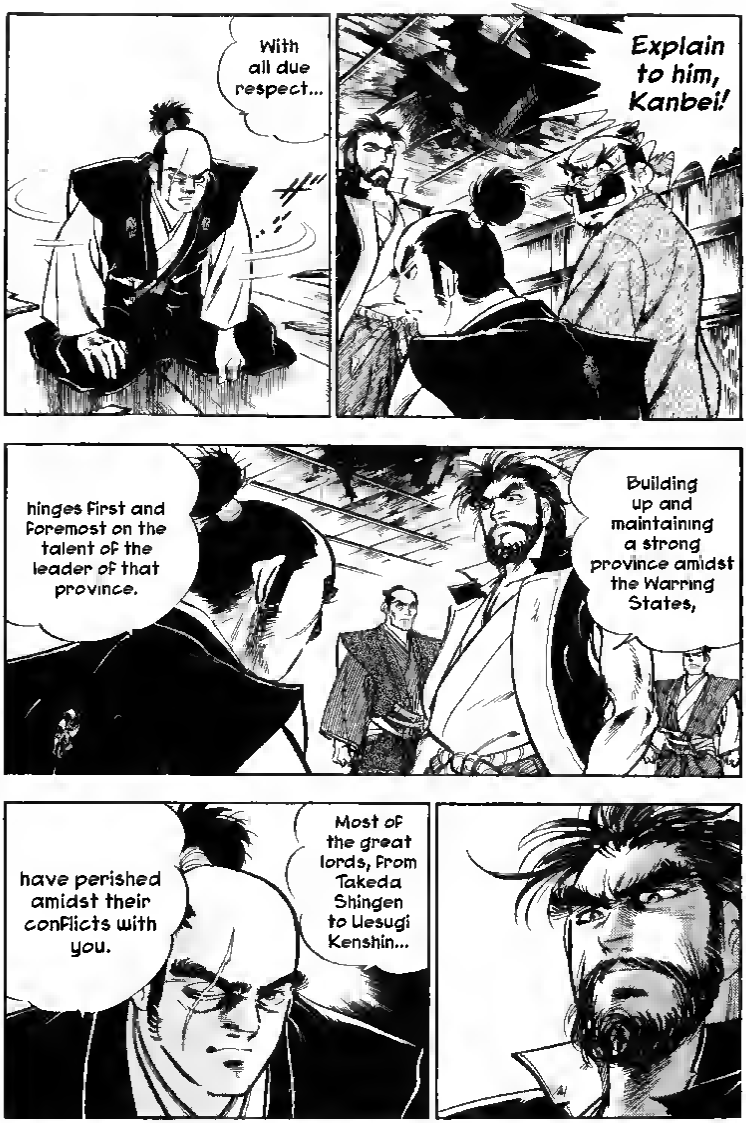

I haven't forgotten, and I never will!!
Aiieeeeeeeee! You always make that scary face without giving any warning!

I beg your pardon!!

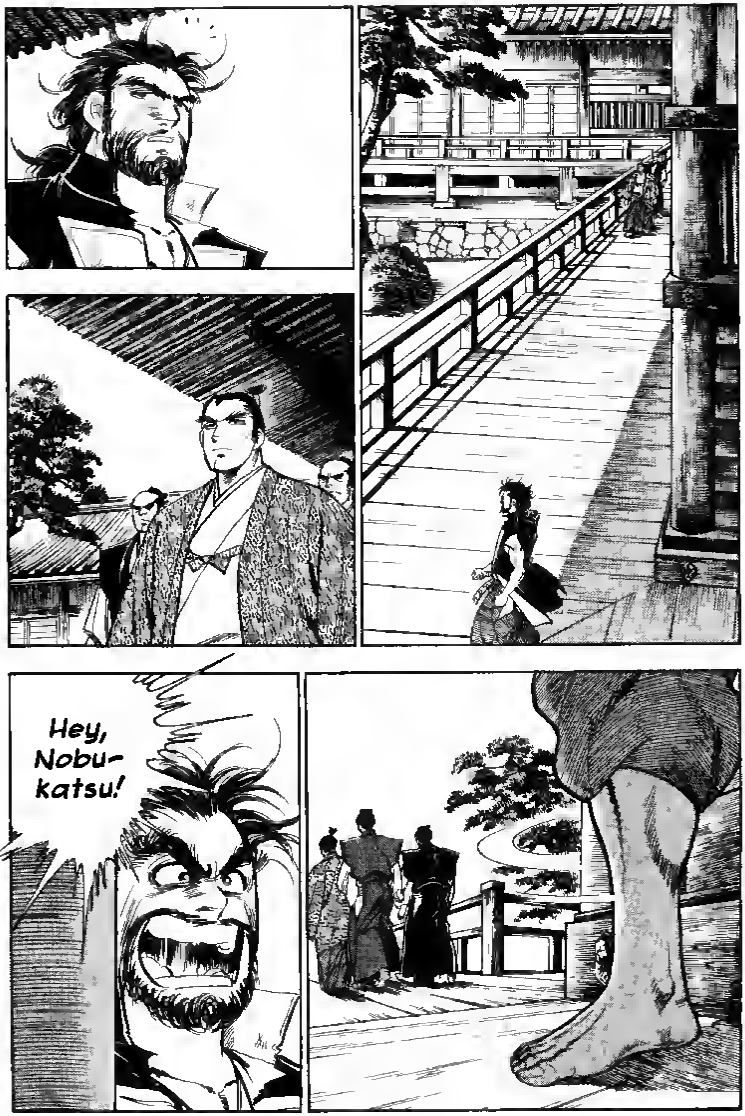
What the hell is that!?
Gyehhhh hhhhhh!
My lord!

What kind of guards would let a spy in here?
You fools!
And the Iga are commanded by Mikawa...
The Momochi of Iga destroy their faces when they fail...
Yes, my lord!!
Monkey ...

You must crush all those under Takigawa Kazumasa before spring comes...
The only time Katsuie will be stripped bare will be this winter, when the snow will keep him inside...
Under-stood, my lord.
Within a year...?
of conquering the nation with military fight within a year
I will also have you watch as I complete your endeavor


With all due respect...
Explain to him, Kanbei!
hinges first and foremost on the talent of the leader of that province.
Building up and maintaining a strong province amidst the Warring States,
have perished amidst their conflicts with you.
Most of the great lords, from Takeda Shingen to Uesugi Kenshin...

There is no longer any general who can maintain a strong province amidst the lords
Not to mention that the generals of Oda were only strong on your account. With you gone, they are but a motley crew.
The only one who remains is Lord Tokugawa...
ズバッ
I will take care...
of Ieyasu...


Hey, Nobu-katsu!

Keep looking dazed and confused, and he'll even pluck the hair off your ass!!
Don't let that damn monkey pilfer from you...
Father!
Gwaaah hahaha haaaaa aaah!
Ahhh hhhh!
Father!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

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